

## Turkey: Iraq, Syria reject water plan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey accused Iraq and Syria Wednesday of snubbing its plan for sharing water with the two downstream states worried by the effects of its Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates. A Foreign Ministry official told a news briefing that a meeting of Turkish, Syrian and Iraqi experts in Damascus from Sept. 28 ended last Friday without agreement. "Iraq and Syria did not go into the technical details, opposing Turkey's plan in principle," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Filiz Dincmen told the briefing. She said the two states rejected a Turkish plan on determining the water needs of each country, based on a joint land inventory of irrigable and non-irrigable areas. Ms. Dincmen said Iraqi and Syrian officials insisted each country should determine its own water needs independently. "The only plan before the committee is the Turkish one. Syrian and Iraqi claims that it contradicts principles of international law are completely untrue," Ms. Dincmen said. Syrian officials have blamed Turkey for the failure of the talks. They said Ankara was trying to maintain the status quo and to prolong the work of the committee by presenting "unacceptable proposals."

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## Morocco mediating in Saudi-Qatar row

RABAT (R) — Morocco's foreign minister has visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar in an effort to defuse a border dispute, Moroccan media said Wednesday. The pro-government daily Al Khayriya said Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali flew to Jeddah Monday for talks with Saudi Minister of State Mohammed Ibrahim Masoud. A Foreign Ministry source told Reuters: "Mediation cannot be excluded because the talks in Jeddah will certainly cover all burning questions in the Arab World and of course the dispute with Qatar is one of them." The Saudi Press Agency said Mr. Filali was received by King Fahd Tuesday night. The official Moroccan news agency MAP said Mr. Filali arrived in Doha on Wednesday for talks with Qatari officials. Morocco has long had close relations with both Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

## Israeli seal off 'security zone'

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies have sealed off the Israeli-occupied sector in South Lebanon because they fear guerrilla attacks, security sources said Wednesday. The sources said five gateways linking Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" to the rest of the country were closed Tuesday evening. One source said the move was a precautionary measure by Israel and its ally, the South Lebanon Army, in anticipation of guerrilla attacks on the zone during the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday. Beirut's Al Safir daily said Israel's 1,500 troops in the "security zone" and the 3,000-strong SLA were placed on "maximum alert" Tuesday.

## Algeria lifts ban on 4 newspapers

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria Wednesday lifted a ban on four daily newspapers closed for undermining the country's "higher interests" or threatening public order. Le Matin, La Nation, Al Djazair Al Youm (Algeria Today) and Liberté were authorized to resume publication from Thursday, the Ministry of Interior announced. Three other journals — two weeklies and a bi-monthly — which were suspended in the past two months, remain banned. Liberté was originally banned from publication for 15 days from Oct. 3. No time limit was set on the suspensions imposed last August on Le Matin, La Nation and Al Djazair Al Youm. Algeria, battling Muslim fundamentalist extremists, has cracked down on newspapers carrying content or reports seen as undermining the country or threatening its security.

## Kuwaiti policemen wounded in clash

KUWAIT (AP) — Three Kuwaiti policemen were wounded in a clash with Iraqi forces at a Kuwaiti border post, security sources said Wednesday. A Ministry of Interior statement said a number of Iraqis manning a border post attacked the Kuwaiti post of Bahar Hoshan before dawn Tuesday using machine guns, hand grenades and bazookas. Kuwaiti border police exchanged fire with the Iraqis and three sergeants were wounded in the clash, it said without providing details of their injuries. A United Nations team last week began putting up permanent marks along the disputed 210-kilometer border. Iraq has said it will not recognize the new border, but has not resisted the U.N. team.

## Prosecutor opposes arms ship release

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul's state security court prosecutor has lodged an appeal against the release of a ship seized a year ago with a cargo of arms for Iran. The semi-official Anatolia news agency said Wednesday Prosecutor Yasar Turk had appealed against the court's ruling to release the Cyprus-registered Cape Males on grounds that the ship had three different and conflicting sets of documents for its cargo and had concealed that it was carrying arms.

## Arafat says Palestinian legislative elections should be held this month

By Marizim M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday called for Palestinian legislative elections in the occupied territories to be held on Oct. 30, the date the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process have set for the beginning of "the interim period of self-rule."

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), also told an Amman meeting that if Israel attempts to prevent the legislative elections, "which should be monitored by the U.N.," then he would call for a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in "its entirety." The PNC is the Palestinian parliament and has over 450 members inside and outside the occupied territories.

During the meeting, attended by Amman-based members of the PNC, and in public comments after the gathering, Mr. Arafat also blasted Palestinian opponents of the peace talks for blocking efforts to arrive at a united Palestinian position to counter the Jewish state.

Mr. Arafat reviewed the course of the one-year-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and emphasized the need to consolidate Arab ranks before the next round of peace negotiations with Israel begin in Washington on Oct. 21. "Mr. Arafat reassured the meeting that international legitimacy and PNC approval would be the basis for any settlement of the Palestine question," said a PNC member who attended the meeting.

"Chairman Arafat said that a major hindrance to progress in the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians was Israel's refusal to allow legislative elections in the occupied territories," said another participant. Israel is offering only municipal elections in the occupied territories.

One hundred and eighty-six seats in the PNC are held by heads of professional associations, unions and charitable organizations and community leaders in the occupied territories, but most of them have been unable to attend PNC sessions because of Israeli restrictions and travel bans.

During Wednesday's meeting, chaired by Mr. Arafat and co-chaired by PNC Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, the PLO leader assailed the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the occupied territories, which is challenging the PLO leadership and opposes the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Arafat accused Hamas of receiving financial support from the government of Iran, according to a PNC member who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "The chairman said a high-level Hamas group was in Tehran and was receiving aid from the Iranian regime," he said.

Mr. Arafat sought the endorsement of the Amman-based PNC

members of continued Palestinian participation in the peace talks. More than 100 PNC members live in Amman.

Mr. Arafat lauded the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to consolidate and coordinate the Arab position vis-a-vis the peace talks with Israel. Palestinian-Jordanian coordination had reached an all-time peak thanks to King Hussein's pan-Arab efforts, Mr. Arafat told PNC members.

The PLO chairman reiterated the Palestinian desire to have confederal ties with Jordan once Palestinian statehood is achieved. "When there is a Palestinian state, there will be confederation with Jordan," he said.

He called on the U.S. and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace process, to revitalize the talks, which have made little progress. During the meeting with PNC members Mr. Arafat stressed the need for a united Arab and Palestinian stand and urged a consolidation of the Palestinian ranks.

A group of 10-hardline Palestinian factions, including the second and third largest groups in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah, have called for an end to Palestinian participation in the peace talks and questioned the ability of the current PLO leadership to lead its people towards

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Arafat seeks to reunite PLO ranks, page 2

## Israeli soldiers shoot and wound 78 demonstrators in Gaza Strip

RAFAH, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 78 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday during marches in support of a prisoner hunger strike, medical sources said.

Soldiers fired live ammunition, plastic bullets and tear-gas to disperse several thousand demonstrators outside the Red Cross headquarters in Rafah camp, witnesses said. Palestinians threw stones and at least two firebombs, they said.

The clashes were the fiercest in the strip in five months. One man was shot twice in the neck and one woman lost an eye, hospital sources said. The others were lightly wounded. Fifty-one were treated for tear-gas inhalation.

Soldiers shot and wounded 15 protesters, four seriously, in Mughazi camp in the centre of the strip, medical sources said. No confirmation was available from the army because Israel was shut down for a 25-hour fast.

Nearly 3,000 demonstrated in Gaza City and smaller marches took place in the West Bank towns of Nablus and Jenin. The protests were to back an 11-day-old hunger-strike by thousands of Palestinian prisoners demanding better treatment and conditions.

Palestinian sources said contacts were under way between Palestinian leaders and Israeli police ministry officials to end the fast, the biggest since a 20-day hunger strike at the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal hoped to visit Nablus's Jaid prison Friday, the sources said. Israel says the strike is a political move to bolster the Palestinian position at U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace resuming on Oct. 21 in Washington.

Mr. Shahal has said he would study prisoner complaints if the fast stopped.

The army said that between 20 and 25 injuries from rubber bullets and tear-gas were reported from Rafah area hospitals after marches in solidarity with the prisoners were held in Rafah and Gaza City.

Officials with the U.N. Relief and Works Agency said preliminary reports indicated 65 Palestinians from the town of Rafah and the Rafah refugee camp were treated at U.N. clinics for injuries from rubber bullets and rubber-coated metal pellets.

Arab reports said an additional 30 people were treated for tear-gas inhalation. Reports said the clash in Rafah after activists threw stones at the nearby Israeli "military administration" headquarters. They said at least two firebombs also were thrown.

Also Wednesday, more than 2,000 Palestinians marched through downtown Gaza City in solidarity with the striking prisoners.

## 'Black box' found in El Al crash; more bodies recovered

AMSTERDAM (Agencies) — Crash investigators Wednesday recovered the badly-damaged flight data recorder from the scene of the Amsterdam Jumbo jet crash, but they were pessimistic it would be of much use.

The incomplete so-called "black box" was found in the ruins of the apartment complex devastated by the crash of an El Al Boeing 747-200F last Sunday, killing about 250 people.

"If the black box was badly damaged and they are rather pessimistic how much information it will yield," Ministry of Transport spokeswoman Ellen Timmer said.

The device, which records key instrument data for the last 30 minutes of a plane's flight, is being sent to Europe's leading decoding centre in Farnborough, England.

Rescue workers, combing the ruins of the apartment complex for corpses, had pulled out 30 bodies by 1200 GMT. But the sexes of only six have been established.

"It's almost impossible to identify the sexes. We are only identifying small parts of bodies," a

city hall spokesman said. Officials believe the remains of many of the dead will never be recovered.

"It's a lousy job to do," commented one policeman, who said many of his colleagues were being treated for stress and trauma symptoms.

Investigators hope they will get at least some clues as to the cause of the crash from the "black box."

Boeing said it warned airlines Monday to inspect the pins holding the engines to the wings of most 747 models.

Dutch officials said the crashed El Al jet had a mid-air engine fire in mid-July. Schiphol airport spokeswoman Marion van der Goot said the Boeing cargo plane had reported an engine fire during an incoming flight to Amsterdam airport in mid-July.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday attends a meeting of Amman-based members of the Palestine National Council (Photo by Youssef Al Alwan)

## Prosecution introduces bugged phone calls in Al Nafeer trial

### More explosives seized, prosecutor says

By Sana Attiyeh  
and P.V. Vivekanand

MARKA — Technical and legal admissibility of bugged telephone conversations as evidence dominated Wednesday's session of the Shabbab Al Nafeer Al Islami trial, and, perhaps for the first time, a Jordanian court ruled that wiretap evidence was acceptable.

Only two witnesses appeared in court Wednesday, the fifth day of the trial at the State Security Court where Lower House members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash and two merchants face charges of affiliation with an illegal armed group plotting to overthrow the regime, and possession of illegal weapons and explosives.

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash, the first and second defendants, are also charged with inciting others to join them and undermining Jordanian-Iraqi relations. In addition, Mr. Shbeilat faces charges of slandering His Majesty the King and Parliament members.

The third and fourth defendants, Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkadek — owners of a picture-frame shop in Jabal Hussein — have pleaded guilty to the charges but argue that the Al Nafeer group's objective was armed struggle against Israel and not subversion in Jordan.

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash have entered not guilty pleas.

The prosecution sprung

another surprise Wednesday by announcing the seizure of a small quantity of explosive and components from the same site where it said weapons and documents were found earlier this week.

Prosecutor Major Mohamad Hijazi sought permission from the court to introduce a new witness, the father-in-law of Mr. Ayoubi, the third defendant. Mr. Hijazi told the court that he was informed by the proposed witness Tuesday afternoon that he had discovered the explosives — 600 grammes of TNT, one hand grenade, electric wires and fuses, and steel casings — on a rooftop of a building where Mr. Ayoubi as well as his in-laws live.

The prosecution's revelation immediately drew an angry objection from Jamal Dmour, one of Sheikh Qarash's lawyers. The lawyer went on record suggesting that the prosecution was "fabricating" evidence and said the prosecution should have had all the witnesses ready before referring the case to the court.

"We object to presenting any new evidence..." said Mr. Dmour. "I believe that new evidence which is continuing to emerge is suspicious and appears fabricated."

Mr. Hijazi retorted that he had "hoped that Mr. Dmour would not stoop so low and overstep the limits of legal and professional ethics. As a prosecutor of the State Security Court, I will not dignify this charge with an

## Turkish jets bomb rebels in Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish warplanes Wednesday bombed northern Iraqi bases operated by Turkish Kurdish rebels, who also underwent a sixth day of attack by rival Iraqi Kurds. The Turkish Kurds retaliated by imposing an economic blockade on Iraqi-Kurdish controlled northern Iraq. The blockade forced thousands of Turkish trucks to halt illegal trade with the Iraqi Kurds. The Turkish jets attacked bases of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) some 10 kilometres inside Iraq, just east of Zakho, at Hakkari and Duri, witnesses said. A Turkish military official described Wednesday's air strike as a "routine operation as part of daily reconnaissance flights in the area." He said initial intelligence showed that the rebels were fleeing towards Syria and Iran. There was no immediate word on casualties. Turkish jets staged similar strikes against the bases this summer. Casualties among Iraqi Kurds from the raids caused tension between the Kurdish groups.

## Kuwaiti cabinet resigns

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, accepted the resignation of the prime minister and the cabinet Wednesday, two days after elections which produced a parliament likely to press for more government accountability.

The resignation, to allow the emir to appoint a new cabinet, follows Kuwait's first poll in six years for a fully-elected parliament in which government opponents won between 27 and 35 of the 50 elected seats.

An emir decree said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and his team would "each of them continue to attend to the urgent matters related to his function until the new cabinet will be formed."

The emir said in another decree reported by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) the new parliament would convene on Oct. 20. A new cabinet is expected to be appointed within two weeks and the ministers will join parliament as ex-officio members with full voting rights.

KUNA said Sheikh Saad, who is also crown prince, met the emir Wednesday.

"Sheikh Saad said that his government... provided the appropriate atmosphere for the resumption of parliamentary life and provided all the necessary requirements which enabled citizens to cast votes freely," KUNA reported.

The new parliament will make government accountability for public finances its top priority, newly-elected members said. "I think that public funds will be a main issue," Abdullah Al Nibari, a newly-elected member for the Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) of leftists and Arab nationalists, told Reuters.

"I think the internal debt problem will be very important," said Ahmad Baqr, who won his seat for the Islamic Popular Movement of conservative Sunnis.

"I think the people who have the debts must pay them back. It's not fair to have money abroad and not pay."

The opposition is suspicious of a government programme to buy back some \$20 billion of commercial bank debt. It fears the government may either completely write off the debts, or set generous rescheduling terms.

Newly-elected members have also called for an investigation of

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Kuwaiti parliament to challenge government, page 2

## Italy and Egypt discuss Arab-Israeli peace process

CAIRO (Agencies) — Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo on Wednesday discussed the Middle East peace process with President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Colombo, who also conferred with Foreign Minister Amr Musa, told reporters that he wanted to know Egypt's views on the U.S.-sponsored peace talks between the Israelis and Israel.

A seventh round of bilateral talks is scheduled to start in Washington Oct. 21. "I was very interested after my visit to Israel to know Egypt's opinion on this issue," Mr. Colombo said, speaking in Italian through an interpreter. The minister visited Israel at the end of August.

"The negotiations have been procedural but now I see that they are dealing with substance," Mr. Colombo said. "This is a constructive way to reach solutions."

The Italian minister is going to Syria Thursday. His visit followed a regional tour last week by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who also sought to further peace-making efforts.

The peace talks are stalled because of differences between Syria and Israel on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Syria wants a complete pull-out from its Golan Heights while the Jewish state wants full diplomatic relations with open borders before making a withdrawal pledge.

## Turkey will not sell Iraqi oil for U.N. funds

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Turkish official said Wednesday Turkey did not plan to sell a small amount of Iraqi crude in the country to comply with a U.N. resolution ordering states to seize and sell Baghdad's oil assets.

"Turkey does not plan to sell the Iraqi oil in a pipeline and in some storage tanks in its own territory," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Filiz Dincmen told a news conference.

"The sale of oil in the pipes and tanks will cause technical and financial problems... we informed the United States, which pushed the U.N. decision, and they understood us," she said.

Metin Goknel, head of Turkey's state-run Botas pipeline company, told Reuters Monday it was hardly worth selling the Iraqi crude in the country.

"The amount of oil that can be sold is worth about \$24.5 million. It is technically not worth doing," he said.

Mr. Goknel said 2.1 million barrels of Iraqi oil had been sitting in storage tanks in Turkey since Ankara enforced U.N. sanctions against Baghdad in August 1990.

But he said it would be technically feasible to sell only about 1.2 million barrels of this to avoid damage to tanks at Turkey's Yumurtalik terminal of the 986-kilometre twin pipeline from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields.

reils in the pipeline itself without pumping in water and nitrogen, which would corrode the pipes.

Mr. Goknel said Iraqi crude in the pipeline and storage tanks was worth about \$107 million. Iraq owes Turkey \$61.5 million in oil transit fees and about \$1 billion in overall trade debts.

Prime Ministers Suleyman Demirel has indicated that Turkey would comply with the latest U.N. resolution but has showed no enthusiasm for selling impounded Iraqi oil.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, meanwhile, assailed U.N. weapons inspectors, several of whom have been attacked on Baghdad streets, saying they are out to undermine Iraq.

In a speech to leaders of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, President Saddam described the inspectors as "wolves that have been grabbing Iraq with their teeth."

The speech, broadcast on Baghdad Radio Tuesday, was the most provocative commentary yet on the inspection teams, which are charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. ceasefire resolutions ending the Gulf war.

Official statements critical of the United Nations have increased since the Security Council voted Friday to seize \$1 billion in Iraqi assets frozen abroad.

U.S. suggests Saddam reconsider food for Iraq, page 2



## Arafat seeks new endorsement of peace talks to avoid schism

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat is expected to come under fire at a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) next week for dealing too softly with Israel, with hardliners demanding the Palestinians quit U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

The hardliners echo growing frustrations among Palestinians that the year-old negotiations have reached an impasse, with no visible progress towards achieving an independent homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said that the hardliners will push for a Palestinian withdrawal from the talks because Israel refuses to discuss the future of the occupied territories beyond a transitional period of limited autonomy.

A small minority in the 80-member council advocates accepting Israel's offer for elections in the occupied territories as a test of the ability of the 1.7 million Palestinians living there to administer their own affairs.

The Palestinians fear too that Syria and Israel could be heading towards a separate peace treaty after Israel offered a partial withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, a move that would leave the Palestinians isolated.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian delegates at the talks, who are part of a joint team with Jordan, favour giving the peace process one last chance.

They will attend the next round of talks scheduled to begin in Washington Oct. 21 before taking a final decision on whether to go on or not, the sources said.

At Israel's insistence, the PLO

was excluded from the talks launched in Madrid in October last year. But it guides the negotiating team.

Palestinian and Arab diplomats who monitor the PLO in Tunis say Mr. Arafat, who has survived several challenges in recent PCC sessions, will once again swing the vote in his favour during the Oct. 14-17 meeting.

The council is a watchdog body that monitors the PLO executive Committee's actions and drew up strategy between the annual sessions of the 451-seat Palestine National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile.

Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO over more than two decades has come under sharp criticism since the year-old negotiations.

But Mr. Arafat's brush with death in a plane crash in the Libyan desert last April muffled these voices amid a general feeling that the 63-year-old PLO leader's survival avoided a potentially divisive crisis since there is no obvious successor.

This thorny issue is likely to come up again at next week's meeting, but more as a precautionary measure to head off a potential crisis than as a serious challenge to Mr. Arafat.

More urgently, the PLO needs to close ranks to counter the growing influence of its main rival in the occupied territories, the Islamic fundamentalist movement (Hamas), which is vehemently opposed to the peace process.

Despair over the lack of progress in the peace talks, coupled with the PLO's financial woes which have curbed the cash flow to the occupied territories, are

pushing more and more Palestinians into Hamas' arms.

Ten hardline factions inside and outside the PLO recently formed a new alliance to pressure the Palestinian leadership to walk out of the peace talks.

The alliance includes the two biggest factions in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Non-PLO groups in the anti-talks camp include Hamas and Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council.

Consensus in the PCC would be a setback for the hardliners, particularly Hamas — for now, at least.

To this end, Mr. Arafat flew to Jordan and Syria this week to confer with rival Palestinian leaders to ensure the widest possible participation at the council meeting.

His first meeting was with George Habash, veteran leader of the PFLP.

Few details have emerged from those talks, but PLO sources report that Mr. Habash has agreed that his group will attend the council session.

Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO's Information Department, described the peace talks as a "battle being fought by all Palestinians," a reference to those living under occupation and the nearly 3.5 million in diaspora. "They can't fight together if they don't achieve a national consensus first," he told the AP.

Dr. Hilal agreed the gap was wide, but stressed "our differences should not make a crack in the PLO wall that would expose the backs of the negotiators."

## Kuwaiti parliament to challenge government

By David Brough  
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwaitis, secure in the belief that democracy is here to stay following their suffering under Iraqi occupation, have voted in a parliament likely to make life difficult for their traditional rulers.

This is the view of foreign diplomats who watched Monday's elections as Kuwaitis celebrated the return of a democracy they believe it is their right to enjoy after the trauma of the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and occupation.

The election gave opposition groups 27 to 35 of the available 50 elected seats in the new parliament, the country's first in six years.

But diplomats said the government was not helpless. It had wide experience of troublesome parliaments previously. The last was dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

It could also exploit deep divisions among the motley pack of opposition groups, the diplomats added.

"They include merchants feeling squeezed but by the numerous and wealthy members of the Al Sabah ruling family, traditional nationalists, liberals and leftists."

But the most powerful group would probably be the up to 18 Islamic deputies if they joined forces. They are now divided into at least three tendencies — moderate and militant Sunnis and Shiites of various shades.

One diplomat said the experience of the Iraqi invasion had left what appears to be an indelible wound. Gaze were the days when Kuwaitis would sit back and let bureaucrats manage the public purse without consulting them.

The country, once used to receiving a huge income from oil and investments, is now having to make heavy debt service payments to international banks from its oil income. Its investments had to be wound down to pay Gulf war-related costs.

Kuwaiti women who played a significant role in the country's liberation by the U.S.-led allies, are also agitating for a role, saying it is time they take their place in public life.

One woman, wearing a traditional black dress and veil that revealed only her eyes, said at a recent meeting to press for women's rights, "We don't just want the right to vote — we want to stand as candidates, too."

The government has said it was up to the new parliament to rule on women's rights, as well as on reducing the voting age from 21, easing nationality conditions on voters and allowing political parties, now banned.

But diplomats said there was a limit to the democracy that some opposition members would expect.

"They might ease the conditions slightly, but they are unlikely to allow a serious watering down of the exclusivity of Kuwaiti nationality, which brings huge advantages," one said.

Some Kuwaitis have no qualms about the stiff residence and other conditions imposed on foreigners who come to work in Kuwait and serve its 600,000 citizens, diplomats said.

"They don't want another Palestinian problem," one said in a reference to the 400,000 or so Palestinians who lived in Kuwait before the invasion, many of whom were suspected by the Kuwaitis of cooperating

with the Iraqi occupiers.

The government also holds a trump card, diplomats say, because under the constitution ministers join parliament with full voting rights, diluting any opposition majority. They may not exceed one third of the number of elected members.

Some Kuwaitis blame the government for their swift defeat by Iraqi forces who overran the emirate in hours on Aug. 2, 1990, diplomats say.

Several opposition groups have said it was time to open the "invasion file." The government says it will not object because it has nothing to hide.

The Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) of leftists and Arab nationalists, which won two seats, said in its manifesto it would carry out "political accountability for failure, negligence and carelessness shown by persons in authority before and during the invasion."

Ironically, opposition politicians leading this assault on the government are not dynamic young stars of the political firmament. Most are resolute veterans who have in many cases held parliamentary seats since the 1970s.

One such pro-democracy activist, who was reelected on Monday, is Ahmad Al-Saadoun, former speaker of the 1985-86 parliament who was also a member of the 1975 and 1981 parliaments. Another is Abdullah Al-Nabari, head of the KDF and a member of the 1971 and 1975 parliaments before this one.

Many candidates said in their election campaigns they would make the government accountable for its economic policies, notably its troubled foreign investments and a controversial plan to buy about \$20 billion in commercial bank debt.

## U.N. ambassador reviews peacekeepers in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — The United Nations' special envoy to Somalia reviewed a Pakistani infantry battalion Tuesday and told its men they "may have to take stiff measures" to ensure the delivery of food to Somalia's starving millions.

The 500-strong U.N. force is expected to begin its deployment in Mogadishu's port and airport this weekend in a move many aid workers fear could bring violent resistance from Somalis now in control of the facilities.

"It is not going to be an easy task," Ambassador Mohammad Sahnoun told Lieutenant-Colonel Kamal Aziz, commander of the Seventh Battalion of the Pakistani frontier force.

The Pakistanis will guard the arrival and unloading of ships and planes and escort truck convoys carrying relief supplies from the port and airport to distribution centres around the Somali capital.

Col. Aziz said they also would provide protection for aid workers in the event of a new eruption of clan fighting like the five-month artillery battle that virtually razed the city before the fighting was halted by a ceasefire in March.

"I know the people of Somalia — especially the kids, many of whom have died and are still dying — would want me to thank you," Mr. Sahnoun told the Pakistani commander after a reception and tour of the unit's camp.

In a normal peacekeeping task we know who to negotiate with and they can implement agreements," Mr. Sahnoun said. "Here, unfortunately, in this environment, we have no structure, only anarchy."

"When we negotiate with one of the parties, someone, somehow, sometime, can check us and destroy our work. But we will not

be deterred and we may have to take stiff measures to see that food gets to those who truly need it."

Drought and clan warfare have claimed more than 100,000 lives, and aid officials say two million Somalis are in danger of starvation.

Mogadishu's port and airport have been repeatedly closed by clan fighting and banditry, some of it by clan militias and some, by free-lance gunmen who are accountable to no-one. Aid shipments have been disrupted or heavily looted or both.

Only Monday, the port and nearby airport were closed by a heavy exchange of machine gun and rifle fire between rival clans. Two C-130 cargo planes, one Canadian and one Belgian, were forced to take off hurriedly from the airport before they were fully unloaded.

The clans controlling the airport and the port charge steep landing and docking fees, up to \$25,000 for a medium-sized freighter at the Indian Ocean port. The United Nations is expected to keep paying them, even after the Pakistanis take control, "if only to avoid their enmity."

"It comes down to paying them off to prevent trouble, a form of extortion or blackmail," said a U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some aid workers estimate that up to half of the some 165,000 tonnes of food shipped to Somalia so far this year has been stolen. Mogadishu's markets are awash in looted stocks of American, Canadian, Australian and European wheat and other grain.

The Pakistani battalion is one of that country's oldest, formed in 1819 by British Major General Sir John Coke. It is still known popularly as "Coke's Battalion" and fought alongside the British in Malaysia in World War II.

## Egyptian police arrest Islamic murder suspects

ASSIUT, Egypt (Agency) — Police arrested five suspected Muslim militants wanted for the murder of a policeman in Upper Egypt, security sources said Wednesday.

The sources said police arrested the five in the village of Bahi where a policeman on patrol was shot dead last week and transferred them to the city of Assiut, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

They said one of them, Mohammad Hussein Amin, was leader of the illegal Islamic Group organisation in the nearby town of Qusiya.

Violence involving Muslim militants has surged in Egypt this year, killing more than 60 people since March.

Militants fired on a tourist boat on the Nile last week and three people were killed in the town of Dayrut Tuesday when a bomb blew up on a train.

At least one explosive device blew up on the train, in killing a father, his three-year-old son and a suspected Muslim extremist transporting the bomb, the Ministry of Interior said.

Ten people, including two suspected partners of the alleged bombers, were wounded in the blast, which occurred at 6:50 a.m. (0450 GMT) as the train sat in the station at Dayrut, 60 kilometres north of Assiut.

The two suspected partners were under police guard in a Dayrut hospital. An Interior Ministry statement said the device blew up in a toilet as the man tried to throw it out of the window at passengers on the station platform.

The train, on a route from Assiut to Cairo, 380 kilometres to the north, was not a first-class type used by foreign tourists, Assiut stationmaster Mohammad Ahmad said.

## U.S. wants Sudan to reconsider food for Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States Tuesday told Sudan to feed its own hungry people instead of trying to export beef to Iraq.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that the Islamic fundamentalist government of Sudan had proposed exporting 20,000 tonnes of frozen beef to Iraq, in an apparent show of solidarity with Iraq, even though seven million of its own people face a food crisis.

"Exports of food to Iraq of course are not barred by the U.N. sanctions, but at the same time we think the government of Sudan should reconsider its transaction in light of the needs of its own people," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"As well, we think the government in Khartoum ought to make more of the country's grain production available to the hungry people throughout Sudan," he added.

The Sudanese move came to light after it requested permission for the shipment from the United Nations sanctions committee, which monitors the international trade embargo on Iraq.

The committee granted the request but said that if Sudan wanted to fly the beef to Iraq it must use non-Iraqi airlines, allow each flight to be inspected by U.N. personnel before takeoff and after its return to Sudan. The committee also stipulated that no more than five flights a week take place.

The Post said Sudan sold 15,000 tonnes of beef to Iraq last year.

Sudan's food crisis is especially grim in the south where a civil war has been raging between forces of the government and rebel movements.

Earlier Tuesday, the Sudanese government claimed a U.S. aid employee executed last month had worked for a subversive group seeking secession of the southern region.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement which it said was intended to "dispel all doubts raised by some critics about the justice and fairness of the trial" of Andrew Tombe, a southern Sudanese.

Mr. Tombe, 34, worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) in Juba, capital of the southern Equatoria province. He was executed after a military tribunal in mid-August found him guilty of treason.

The statement made no mention of another Sudanese employee of aid, Bandoun Tally, who the U.S. government says was also executed.

Shortly after the executions, Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, accused Sudan's government of practising "ethnic cleansing" against the Christian and animist minorities in the south.

Tuesday's Foreign Ministry statement said Mr. Tombe's confessions and testimonies by witnesses at the trial led to the conclusion that he had worked for an organisation called "the Sons of the South" whose goal is

independence for the south.

The group has never been heard of before. The main rebel group in the south is the Sudan People's Liberation Army that has been fighting against the government since 1983. The SPLA wants more autonomy and greater economic development in the south.

State Department press officer Joseph Snyder said two weeks ago the administration rejected charges that Mr. Tombe was guilty of treason.

"Based on our own knowledge of Mr. Tombe, we do not think he was guilty of these charges," he said.

Sorghum for Somalia

Sudan's military leader has ordered that 10,000 tonnes of sorghum be sent immediately to Somalia, a Khartoum newspaper reported Tuesday.

The government-owned newspaper Al-Sudan Al-Hadith (Modern Sudan) said Omar Hassan Al-Bashir ordered the aid during talks with Mohammed Sahnoun, the United Nations special envoy for Somalia, who arrived in Khartoum Sunday evening for a one-day visit as part of a regional U.N. initiative on the Somali crisis.

Sudan said two weeks ago it was sending 1,000 tonnes of aid to Somalia.

Khartoum pledged last week to donate 100,000 tonnes of sorghum to the drought-stricken countries in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanon to raise case of prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon said Tuesday it would tell its envoy at the United Nations to step up a campaign to pressure Israel to free some 250 Lebanese prisoners. "We will instruct our delegation at the United Nations to raise the issue in the international media and ... at official gatherings," Foreign Minister Nasri Ma'alouf said. He was speaking after meeting a delegation of newly-elected deputies working for the release of the detainees held by Israel and its surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Israel has demanded information on four of its servicemen missing in Lebanon before agreeing to any prisoner exchange. On Monday, Lebanon asked international organisations to press Israel to return the bodies of 75 guerrillas killed during raids on Israeli forces or SLA militiamen in South Lebanon. "We are asking about the prisoners before they become corpses," Mr. Ma'alouf said. The Jewish state last month demanded more information from Beirut on the fate of missing Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon in 1986. Lebanese peace negotiators in Washington have said they believed Arad was alive but did not know who was holding him. Pro-Iranian Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, who was snatched by Israeli commandos from South Lebanon in 1989, is Israel's trump card in any possible exchange deal. Last year, Israel released 91 prisoners after receiving the remains of one soldier and evidence of the death of two others.

### UNICEF vaccine trucks go to north Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government Wednesday allowed three truck loads of vaccines to cross into rebel-held territory in northern Iraq, where acute shortages of medicines have been reported for months. A government statement said the trucks left Baghdad carrying half a million vaccines against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, tuberculosis, polio and measles. The shipment, assembled by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was destined for the Kurdish cities of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the Ministry of Information statement said.

### Lebanese army gets U.S. military vehicles

BEIRUT (R) — The United States has donated \$2 million worth of military vehicles and equipment to Lebanon, Lebanese army sources said Wednesday. They said the U.S. shipment of trucks, jeeps and other equipment from American bases in Europe, would be the first to Lebanon since 1984, the height of the 1975-90 civil war. The ill-equipped 30,000-man Lebanese army has managed to extend state authority over the shattered country since civil war ended in 1990 with the disarming of rival militias.

### U.S., Russian navies hold joint Gulf meeting

ABU DHABI (R) — Naval officers from the United States and Russia met Tuesday for their first talks on coordinating United Nations operations since a Russian warship arrived in the Gulf region. U.S. spokesman Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole told Reuters officers from the destroyer USS Kinkaid met the Russians aboard the anti-submarine ship Admiral Vinogradov outside the Straits of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf. The senior officers on each side were the commander of the U.S. destroyer squadron and a Russian division chief of staff. The Admiral Vinogradov and the tanker Boris Butoma, which sailed together from Russia's Pacific base at Vladivostok last month, were expected to enter the Gulf at mid-week, Cmdr. Cole said. The Russians are joining the U.S., French and British navies, which have patrolled the Gulf since the end of war with Iraq over Kuwait in February last year. They are there to support U.N. sanctions against Iraq and have been carrying out joint exercises in the waterway and the Gulf of Oman with the Arab states of the region. "The initial meeting was to discuss how to start working, and exercising together. We'll be meeting later in the week to start the whole process," Cmdr. Cole said. The last time U.S. and Russian ships cooperated in the Middle East was in 1984, when the Soviet navy took part in international minesweeping efforts in the Red Sea.

### Cyprus to bar Serb-controlled firms

NICOSIA (R) — Yugoslav offshore companies suspected of being branches of Serbian state-owned enterprises are to be barred from registering in Cyprus, a central bank officer said Wednesday. "We will refuse licences for Serbian, state-controlled offshore interests," Sofoclis Michalides of the Cyprus Central Bank told Reuters. "You can see, however, that 95 per cent of the registered Yugoslav offshore companies here are owned by poor refugees fleeing the country," he added. About 500 Yugoslav offshore companies are registered in Cyprus. The crackdown follows a decision by the central bank to tighten up on the island's implementation of U.N. sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro. Cyprus has been recently criticised by British newspapers which alleged Serbian companies were using the island for multi-million dollar operations to get around the sanctions. The Cyprus government categorically denied this but central bank Governor Afentou has acknowledged that sophisticated violations by offshore companies involving third countries would be hard to trace. U.S. State Department official Nick Newcomb, director of foreign assets control, flew here last Friday to talk with the bank governor. "The U.S. official left quite happy with the measures we are taking," said Mr. Afentou.

### Iran wants to send fighters to Bosnia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday the West should allow Iran to send fighters to help Bosnian Muslims fight Serbs. In a speech quoted by Tehran Radio, Ayatollah Khamenei criticised European countries for "indifference to Serbian crimes" in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "If Western governments do not want to prevent the massacre of Muslims themselves, they should open the way for the Muslim youth and our combatant forces to put the Serbs in their place," he said in the central Iranian city of Shir Kord. Muslim volunteers from various countries are fighting alongside Bosnians, but no regular foreign military units have been sent to help Muslims who are heavily outnumbered by Serbs.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Circus  
18:30 ..... Maggy  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Varieties  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Uncle Buck  
21:00 ..... Civil War  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... "Mika from Nowhere"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:12 ..... Fajr  
05:27 ..... Sunrise  
11:54 ..... Dhuhr  
14:04 ..... 'Asr  
17:19 ..... Maghreb  
18:30 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish Tel: 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400.  
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757  
Terrence Church Tel: 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghazi Ismail 752405  
Dr. Mohammad A. Salh 752371  
Dr. Jamil Marjan 776149  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid 730811  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Peterson pharmacy 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy 637885  
Nafiseh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636720  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamshah pharmacy 637660  
Najm pharmacy 947632

### IRBOD:

Dr. Ahmad Bishawi 273925  
Al Sbaras' pharmacy (273825)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Khamsi Jabari 595405  
Ramzi pharmacy 995119

KARAK:  
Dr. Nidal Masarat (-)  
Mar'ab pharmacy 352170

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Dr. Mohammad A. Salh 752371  
Dr. Jamil Marjan 776149  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid 730811  
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## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Faisal, Princess Alia visit Seville

SEVILLE (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal Wednesday visited the Jordanian pavilion at Seville International Expo, and were received by the Commissioner General for the Jordanian pavilion at Seville, Mazen Al Armouti. Dr. Armouti briefed Their Royal Highnesses on the sections of the pavilion which has visited by about three million people from various parts of the world. Dr. Armouti also outlined to Prince Faisal and Princess Alia the cultural activities which were organised at the Jordanian pavilion in the past six months, which included holding two cultural weeks. Prince Faisal and Princess Alia toured the various parts of the pavilion, including several Arab pavilions, and attended a number of artistic and cultural shows. Their Royal Highnesses arrived in Seville Tuesday on a three-day visit to Spain.

### New regulations for gas stations issued

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour Wednesday announced regulations for gas stations. The regulations, which were taken following meetings between officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and gas stations and fuel truck owners, aim at facilitating the distribution of fuel. The meetings decided to set up a committee comprising representatives of the Measurements and Specifications Department, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Supply, the Civil Defence Department, and the Fuel Distributors Association, to check the weight and quality of gas cylinders sold to citizens.

### Abu Taleb attends army celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday attended a celebration organised by the 12th Royal Mechanised Division on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's recuperation and safe return home. Commander of the division delivered a speech in which he expressed the joy of the division's personnel over the King's recuperation and stressed their allegiance to his leadership. Folk troupes from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Yarmouk University and Al Ramtha and Al Husn towns took part in the celebration, which included poetry recitals, songs and dances. The celebration was attended by JUST president, Irbid Governor, the Chief of Staff of the Land Forces, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the inspector general.

### German ambassador visits Ports Corporation

AQABA (Petra) — Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Dureid Mahasneh received in his office Wednesday German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers who was briefed by Mr. Mahasneh on the corporation's handling of goods. The two discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Germany. The ambassador commended the advanced level attained by the corporation during the past years and expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with it.

### Delegation back from civil aviation meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan participated in meetings of the 29th session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation held in Montreal, Canada, recently. Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ahmad Jawelbit, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the meetings, said that he delivered an address in which he stressed the importance of the civil aviation sector.

### Seminar discusses food exports

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the prospect of exporting food supplies to foreign markets was Wednesday held at the Jordanian Exports Development and Commercial Centre Corporation (JEDCO). Representatives of 40 factories specialising in food industries took part in the seminar which was organised by JEDCO's Exports Service Project. The seminar discussed several issues related to marketing Jordanian products abroad and displaying Jordanian goods at international commercial fairs.

### Committee on pilgrimage affairs announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Wednesday announced the names of members of a committee to be in charge of this year's pilgrimage affairs. The Minister said the committee will be chaired by Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Helayel and will include 10 other members from the ministry.

### Jordan, Iraq to discuss transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Transport Secretary General, Awwad Tai will leave for Baghdad Friday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to the joint meetings of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company starting Saturday. Discussions will cover transportation of goods between the two countries.

### Engineering federation council comes to Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Engineers Federation Higher Council has decided to consider Amman as their permanent centre for meetings of the Arab Engineering Consultancy Offices. The decision was taken at a recent meeting in Tunis by the council's members who include representatives from Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria.

## Conference gives sermons to preachers

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Relationship between preachers and Political Parties was one of many issues discussed in a two-day conference on preaching concluded Wednesday at the Religious Affairs Centre at the Jordanian University Mosque.

"Preachers must not use mosques to serve their party's purposes," said Dr. Mohammad Hisham Sultan, a Professor at the Faculty of Islamic Law at the University of Jordan.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is keen to keep politics out of the mosque's premises," said Dr. Issah Al Omari, representative of the ministry at the conference.

Dr. Mohammad Aweidah, a Professor at the Faculty of Islamic Law at the University of Jordan, disagreed. "We have to realise that we are part of a new world order where political parties are one of the realities of a developed country," he said. "We, as scientists and men of letters, have a fundamental role in directing people to the right path and giving advice to them. Thus, we should not prevent an intellectual preacher from preaching simply because he belongs to a particular party," he said.

Another subject under discussion was the lack of woman preachers in Jordan.

"There is a noticeable lack of woman preachers in mosques," said Nida' Mohammad Qasem, a student at the faculty of Islamic Law. "Even if we find some, they rarely happen, they are neither qualified nor capable of preaching," she said.

Twelve working papers were submitted and discussed at the conference. One paper, prepared by Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif, tackled the role of the media in relation to Friday's sermon. Mr. Al Sharif, pointed to the need to Friday sermons, arguing that it was simply not enough to restrict coverage to the publishing of preachers' names. "There are few writers in Jordanian daily newspapers who report the content of Friday's sermons to the public," he said.

In another working paper, Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, pointed out some of the psychological pressures that preachers face. Unsurprisingly, he said, pressure limits the freedom of preachers to convey their message to the public.

"There has to be some sort of immunity to Friday preachers within the limits of Islamic law, in the interests of Islam and Muslims," he said. Other papers concentrated on the purpose of preaching and its influence on the development of Muslim society. Dr. Al Omari attempted to draw attention to the important role preachers should play in directing people to "the right path in life." He claimed that some preachers are not educated enough while others are influenced by family interests and tribal affiliations.

In a paper entitled "Qualities of a Good Preacher," Farouq Abdul Majid Al Samrai, a professor of Islamic law at Yarmouk University, highlighted the importance of the preacher's personality and his physical ability in conveying his speech to the public.

Some of the problems with preaching, according to Dr. Al Samrai, are uttering problems which often disturb listeners. He also pointed out that listeners may fall asleep if the sermon are too long.



Improving Friday sermons; meeting debates the role of preachers in a modern Muslim World

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## RSS receives EC team

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 12-member team from the European Community (EC) currently visiting the country Wednesday called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met its President Hani Mulki for a briefing on EC - RSS projects financed by the EC.

Dr. Mulki described RSS's policies, activities and research projects as well as consultative services it offer to the general public in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Dr. Mulki said technical assistance and aid, that the RSS receives from the EC is instrumental in implementing infrastructure projects in the Kingdom and in providing modern equipment for the RSS research work.

He said that the RSS offers assistance to Arab states by helping them to implement economic and technical projects. He cited a number of projects including the utilisation of renewable and alternative sources of energy conducted jointly with Yemen, Sudan and Egypt.

The EC team, which arrived in Amman Sunday, is reviewing EC-sponsored projects in the Kingdom which has received more than JD 166 million in EC loans and grants since 1977.

Head of the EC team said that the visit was aimed at acquainting members of his delegation with Jordan's activities in various fields and progress in the EC-funded projects.

The RSS, established in 1970 as a research and development institution, consists of the following departments: an information and computer software centre, a renewable energy research centre, an industrial and economic studies centre, an industrial chemistry research centre, a mechanical design and technology centre, a building research centre.

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## Scientists urge world to help end Palestinian detainees' suffering

AMMAN (Petra) — Two hundred neurosurgeons from the Arab World and a number of foreign nations gathered in Amman Wednesday for a three-day conference on neurology organised by the Jordan Neurosurgeons Society.

The delegates are to review 44 working papers dealing with a host of topics ranging from headaches to backbone surgery. In an opening address to the meeting, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh voiced the Health Ministry's full support for inter-Arab cooperation in dealing with neurological diseases.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Dr. Ishaq Maraka told the meeting that the conference was being held at a time when Palestinians under Israeli occupation continue to suffer from physical and psychological torture in Israeli jails.

He said that Palestinian prisoners are constantly subjected to mental and physical torture in violation of all international laws.

Jordanian doctors and physicians declared their absolute support for the Palestinian detainees. Dr. Maraka appealed to the world community and humanitarian and medical organisations to find a way to halt Israel's inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees and prisoners.

He proposed that neurosurgeons from Arab states cooperate with their Palestinian colleagues in compiling studies on the diseases and injuries sustained by detainees in Israeli jails with the purpose of exposing these actions to the outside world. Dr. Maraka also said that the continued sanctions against Iraq are causing a deterioration in health of the Iraqi people particularly among women and children.

He said that shortages of medicines and food are causing untold miseries for the Iraqi people. Jordanian physicians announced their total rejection of the sanctions in all its forms and stressed their continued support for the Iraqi people who are suffering from severe shortages of medical supplies.

Ashraf Al Kurdi, Secretary General of the Arab Neurosurgeons Federation, delivered a speech outlining the federation's achievements and future plans. Later, the Health Minister who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the conference, opened a medical exhibition which displayed a wide variety of medical equipment used in neurology. The exhibition was organised by a number of international and Arab companies.

Countries participating in the conference are Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Canada, Britain, Sweden and Germany.

The minister briefed the visitors on Jordanian laws and legislation aimed at encouraging investors and tax exemptions and privileges investors get from the Kingdom.

Referring to the economic reforms in the country, the minister said that forecasts point to a blossoming in the Jordanian economy with growth expected to reach seven per cent this year. He also said that the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was designed to reduce inflation and narrow budget deficit margin.

The head of the Saudi team echoed the minister's desire for bolstering Saudi-Jordanian trade. Discussion at the meeting, which was attended by ministry officials and businessmen, also covered ways of increasing the volume of trade between Saudi Arabia and Jordan through organising trade fairs and easing trade formalities.

The minister said that Jordan welcomes the work of the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Joint Committee and is willing to sign a new trade protocol with Saudi Arabia to normalise bilateral trade exchanges. According to Mohammad Al Sabah, President of the Jordan-based Saudi-Jordan Trading and Investment Company, there is a wide range of products that Saudis import from Jordan and vice versa.

The delegation members are due to hold further talks with businessmen at the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry and to tour Jordanian industrial projects.

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the current week-long campaign to raise funds for the Al Amal Cancer Centre construction project near the University of Jordan, thousands of students from 630 secondary schools, 35 community colleges and eight universities Wednesday collected donations from homes, factories, and institutions throughout Jordan.

An estimated 22,000 children, donning special uniforms and carrying collection boxes also stopped passers-by and approached drivers at traffic lights who responded by donating money to help complete the estimated JD 13 million project.

Today (Thursday) there will be a sponsored dinner party and on Friday there will be a sponsored march from the Sports City to the Cancer Centre and back.

According to Fawwaz Sharaiha, who heads the March Committee at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), tens of thousands of people, young and old, are expected to turn out for the march, which is organised under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

GUVS is sponsoring the activities of the week-through-a-National Committee chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid ben Shaker.

Mr. Sharaiha said that prizes will be distributed at the end of the march following the results of a lottery. Friday will be the last day of activities and Jordan Television has scheduled a programme featuring celebrities from the Arab World who have also raised money for the centre.

A charity soccer match will be held in the afternoon. GUVS officials said that the centre's structure has been completed but more funds are needed to purchase equipment. At least JD 13 million annually is also required to operate the centre.

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The minister briefed the visitors on Jordanian laws and legislation aimed at encouraging investors and tax exemptions and privileges investors get from the Kingdom.

Referring to the economic reforms in the country, the minister said that forecasts point to a blossoming in the Jordanian economy with growth expected to reach seven per cent this year. He also said that the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was designed to reduce inflation and narrow budget deficit margin.

The head of the Saudi team echoed the minister's desire for bolstering Saudi-Jordanian trade. Discussion at the meeting, which was attended by ministry officials and businessmen, also covered ways of increasing the volume of trade between Saudi Arabia and Jordan through organising trade fairs and easing trade formalities.

The minister said that Jordan welcomes the work of the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Joint Committee and is willing to sign a new trade protocol with Saudi Arabia to normalise bilateral trade exchanges. According to Mohammad Al Sabah, President of the Jordan-based Saudi-Jordan Trading and Investment Company, there is a wide range of products that Saudis import from Jordan and vice versa.

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## Dardas receives UNICEF Staff Award

AMMAN — Mr. Maurice Dardas, supply and procurement officer at the Amman-based Regional Office of UNICEF for the Middle East and North Africa, was awarded UNICEF Staff Award for 1991, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and dedication to the goals of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In conferring the award upon him, UNICEF is expressing its appreciation for the outstanding services Mr. Dardas has performed through the years, and, in particular, for his contribution in providing assistance to the Gulf evacuees during the Gulf crisis, as well as his support to the emergency operations in Iraq.

Mr. Dardas was given the award at a special ceremony held at the regional office, during which UNICEF Regional Director Edward Lannert presented the certificate to Mr. Dardas. The UNICEF Executive Director, James Grant has declared this award at the UNICEF Annual Executive Committee meeting held in New York in June 1992.



The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Aram Zarasian, violin

Otaib Ghanim Haddad, piano

in concert

In the programme pieces by: Rachmaninov, Kreisler, Chopin, Ravel and others

Wednesday, 14 October, 1992 - 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Tickets for JD 5 are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 669028

- Babkine, tel. 661322

- Rivani Store, tel. 693775

- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 663100

- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 667620

## JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD. AMMAN - JORDAN TENDER INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BIDDING TENDER/5/92

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 5/92 for the supply, erection and commissioning of the requirements for Aqaba South Petroleum Installations Project which shall include building of eight crude oil and products storage tanks with a total capacity of (180,000 cubic metres), two spherical or equal storage tanks for LPG with a total capacity of (6,000 cubic metres), one fire fighting water tank with a total capacity of (5,000 cubic metres) and accompanying facilities including steam boilers, ships unloading and loading as well as trucks loading facilities, roads, yards, offices, workshops and all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 19/10/1992, at the company's head office. Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, (financial references are to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle - Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD (200) per set not later than Thursday 29/10/1992.

Offers should be submitted only by the qualified contractors at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 18/11/1993.

Chairman Board of Directors

## ANUNT AL AMBASADEI ROMANE

Cetăţenii Români rezidenţi în Iordania sînt invitaţi să participe la al II-lea tur de scrutin pentru alegerea preşedintelui României, care va avea loc la sediul ambasadei Române, în ziua de 11 octombrie 1992, între orele 6<sup>00</sup> - 21<sup>00</sup>.

## POSITION VACANCY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

The U.S. Agency for International is seeking to fill a senior level position of a Project Development Specialist. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, law or accounting. Some graduate or specialized training in a field relevant to the Development Assistance is desired.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
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مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية المستقلة

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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Enough of the past

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat's talks with George Habbash the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Amman Tuesday aimed to slow down, if not totally end, the growing rift between the various Palestinian factions on the eve of the seventh round of peace talks scheduled to start in Washington later this month. The Palestinian leader is also expected to hold similar parleys with Nayef Hawatmeh, the head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The surge in inter-Palestinian contacts comes in the wake of the decision by PFLP, DFLP and Hamas two weeks ago to call on the Palestinian negotiators to boycott the peace talks with Israel because of what they fear is the creeping Palestinian negotiating posture that they contend has led to undermining international legitimacy as the basis for conducting the negotiations.

What the Palestinian rejectionists offer instead of exploring the peace process to its bitter or sweet end is the tactic of increased military pressure on Israel to be consumed on the shoulders of the intifada. In pure moralistic terms, what these Palestinian forces are demanding is legitimate since Israel still occupies Arab land by force. Their insistence on extricating from Israel as of now the agreement to create a separate and independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is both understandable and right. Yet the mechanics of negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides under the prevailing and projected circumstances also call for comprehension and appreciation. Such negotiations remain in essence talks between unequals and no amount of wishful thinking can change that. There is nothing that all Palestinians and Arabs would want more than to deliver to the Palestinian leadership and people their legitimate aspiration for statehood in the shortest possible time. The realities associated with the Palestinian situation, however, call for constant reappraisal of the tactics deployed for attaining the commonly shared Palestinian objective for full recognition and national identity. Admittedly the intifada has done a great deal to bolster the Palestinian aspirations but it would be reckless to count on it alone for realizing all the dreams of Palestinians. In any case the aspired for Palestinian state cannot be expected to be constructed in one fell swoop under the existing regional and international circumstances. The more pragmatic and prudent route would lie in building this state block by block even if that entails several steps on the way.

The alternative to this policy could be really disastrous especially when all the Arab parties know very well that Israel would seize upon the collapse or even interruption of the peace talks to consolidate its grip on what is left of Palestine by accelerating its settlement programmes. Twelve years ago, there were fewer than 14,000 Israeli settlers on Palestinian soil. Now there are more than 150,000 of them. Ten years from now the figure can be expected to increase even further. The current peace talks offer the only effective way available to the Palestinian and Arab side to slow down if not end outright the continuation of the Israeli housing plans in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians must not repeat the national blunders of the past because being right alone is not enough. One can still be "dead" right as well.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS too premature to judge the real outcome of the Kuwaiti parliamentary elections and it is better for everyone to wait until a new government, based on the results of the elections, has been formed, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Let us wait and see what kind of opposition to the government will the so-called opposition deputies show, especially as Kuwait has become the first Gulf state to elect a ruling party under the American forces' umbrella, the paper said, while it is difficult to guess what the ruling emir and his regime would have done when the Iraqis occupied the emirate, had there been an elected parliament one would be interested to see what the opposition in parliament would do now to hold the ruling regime to account for their crimes committed since the start of the Gulf crisis; not only against the Kuwaitis, but also the whole Arab Nation, said the daily. The paper recalled that the rulers of Kuwait had placed themselves at the total disposal of the colonial powers, presented their services to the world Zionism and paved the ground for the aggression on Iraq. Before the Gulf crisis, Kuwait had played a national role, thanks to the elected deputies at the time, but then the emir dissolved parliament and stifled all forms of resistance with repressive force, added the paper. It said that when the aggression on Iraq started, the Kuwaiti opposition had no voice to be heard, thus the aggression went ahead as planned by the Zionists, the colonialists, and the ruling regime in Kuwait. The paper said the real task for the opposition in the Kuwaiti parliament should now be to try those responsible for the disaster that had befallen the Arab Nation as a result of the Western aggression.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily said Wednesday that President Arafat's visit to Jordan was timely and came in the wake of the abortive end of the six rounds of the Arab-Israeli talks. The paper said that any success for the Arabs can only come through coordination of positions and a firm stand in their demand for Arab rights in Palestine and other areas. The paper said that the required coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace negotiations should be based on the just and right demand from the co-sponsors of the peace process that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 be fully implemented and that no separate or partial solutions be acceptable to any one of these parties under any circumstances, said the daily. The coming seventh round of talks due this month will coincide with a very critical stage in the ongoing presidential election campaign during which the U.S. administration could be choosing to exercise severe pressure on the Arab parties to reach an agreement with Israel at any price and thus give George Bush some momentum in the race to the White House, said the daily.

## Whatever happened to the new world order?

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — Two years ago, in the Gulf crisis, George Bush summoned up a vision to support his call for international military action against Iraq. Whatever one thought of the war and the way he took America into it, the vision was inspiring.

"A new world order," he called it. The strong would be called to account if they attacked the weak. Human rights would be respected. The United States, the one superpower, would provide leadership by seeking international consensus through the United Nations.

It was an appealing vision and a promising one. It combined the Wilsonian idealism that has been so important in American foreign policy through the years — the concern for individual and national rights — with a realistic sense of changing power in the post-cold war world. So it seemed.

The hopes raised by Mr. Bush's rhetoric then have turned to dust. Today the phrase "a new world order" evokes nothing but cynicism.

Instead of seizing the moment for constructive U.S. leadership, Mr. Bush flunked one opportunity, one challenge after another. He was slow to understand and accept the break-up of the Soviet Union, slow to recognize its republics, slow to offer help to the struggling democracies. In China he sided with yesterday's men, aging communist tyrants. He has offered no leadership in the world's financial turmoil.

But the greatest failure, the one that will forever stain George Bush's reputation, has been in the former Yugoslavia. Bold American leadership, exercised in a timely way, could have prevented much of the political and human disaster. Mr. Bush wrung his hands. He is still wringing them.

The world has a short attention span for tragedy. How many

times can we bear to hear about Serbian slaughter of innocent Bosnians? But the slaughter goes on, with terrible consequences not just for the Bosnians but for the peace of the world.

Within the last week we have heard reports of Serbs taking busloads of Bosnian men, Muslims, from a prison camp, supposedly to bring them to Bosnian-controlled areas. Instead the Serbs took the men to a ravine, shot them and threw the bodies in. Two prisoners escaped and lived to tell. The episode could have come from Yevgeny Yevtushenko's poem of the Holocaust, "Babi Yar." It happened on George Bush's watch.

This past weekend the U.S. government said it had corroborated reports of mass murder in Serbian prison camps. A statement said "as many as 3,000" Muslim men, women and children were killed in the camps in May and

June. It happened on George Bush's watch.

"Ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs — removal of non-Serbian families from their homes — has actually increased in recent days. So has the shelling of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, despite solemn promises. The attacks on civilians have been worse in the last month than at any time in the six-month Serbian siege of Sarajevo. It is happening on George Bush's watch.

How is it possible to square the feeble, feckless Bush of these events with the gung-ho president who rallied the world against Saddam Hussein? Does the difference come down to oil? Has he been paralysed by the prospect of the election?

Whatever the reason, the American public understands how weak his performance has been. The usual explanation for Mr. Bush's slide downward in

the polls from his lofty ratings after the Gulf war is that people care more about the economic distress at home. That matters a lot. But I believe that the public is judging him on foreign policy, too.

What has happened is more important than Mr. Bush's political difficulties, and sadder. At a time when countries are breaking up and nationalism is burning, a chance has been lost to demonstrate that, whatever the ambiguity of international boundaries, the slaughter of ethnic groups will not be tolerated.

It was a task for the United Nations. And at this unique moment in modern history the United Nations could have undertaken it — if there had been American leadership.

What it required was vision, clarity and moral force from the American president. What we got from George Bush was fudge — The New York Times.



## Jordan marks Day of the Arab Child

AMMAN — This week Jordan marks the Arab and International Child Day under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, with new ambitions for improving the conditions of its children and providing them with a more wholesome living environment, conducive to creativity and personality development.

In 1984, the Jordanian government ratified the Charter of the Rights of the Arab Child and approved the commemoration of the International Day of the Child which is also the Day of the Arab Child on the first Monday of October. Jordan is also a signatory to the Children Rights Agreement passed unanimously by the U.N. General Assembly in 1989.

Among other things, the agreement called for upholding children's rights in all fields, especially the social and cultural. Jordan, represented by Her Majesty Queen Noor, was also an active participant in the World Summit for Children held in New York on September 30, 1990. Along with participating countries, Jordan ratified the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children issued by conferees.

Participants also adopted a plan of action for implementing the summit's recommendations in the 1990s through application of several concrete measures which include lowering mortality rates of children under five by one third and lowering mother's mortality rates by 50 per cent. The measures also aim at curbing cases of severe and mild malnutrition among children under five by 50 per cent; introducing pure drinking water and sewerage systems in addition to access to basic education to at least 80 per cent of eligible children.

Jordan — solid commitment to children issues

Although Jordan's commitment to the implementation of these measures has been unwavering (as recently evident in the May 1992 Children Conference held here under the patronage of her Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor), the emerging economic hardships, accentuated by the Gulf war, have placed additional burdens on the government to extend assistance and care to children all over the Kingdom.

Conventional child-service delivery systems include educational and health programmes. The number of schools in the Kingdom has reached 3,628 in all levels, accommodating 1,677 million students, according to the 1990 statistics. About 80 per cent

of those students are enrolled in preliminary education schools. There are also more than 11 educational centres catering to children with special needs in the Kingdom.

In the area of children's health services, available data shows that in the past few years about six per cent of Jordan's GNP has been spent on health. Other data of recent years also indicates that over 77.4 per cent of children under 12 years of age in Jordan utilise Ministry of Health primary health care services. As a result, Jordan has achieved the world's fastest annual rate of decline in infant mortality, bringing its infant mortality rate from 70 per 1000 births in 1981 to 35 in less than 10 years.

With mother/child health services being extended all over the Kingdom, and with the rising consciousness among families of the vitality of children health care, over 90 per cent of parents in Jordan are reported to have had their children vaccinated against polio, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus and measles.

But despite such an expansion in child-related services in the areas of education and health, Jordan has yet to go some way before seeing the objectives set by the World Summit for Children being fulfilled. The conventional strategy of responding to children's needs in the various fields, especially education and health, on a quantitative basis (by opening new schools and expanding health services to new areas) does not seem to meet the conditions necessary for realising psychological and physiological development of children. Modern educational approaches to children's development have placed heavy weight on the qualitative dimension of any programme addressing children. This approach occupies a central place in the philosophy and strategy of one Jordanian development-oriented institution: Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

Noor Al Hussein Foundation — focus on quality

By virtue of its wide array of children programmes and projects, NHF has joined forces with numerous government and private organisations to coordinate the annual nationwide activities marking the International and Arab Child Day. Those programmes draw on an intersectoral approach to development and carry heavy focus on the development of children's health, education and personality and talents in literature, music, theatre, and in-

tercultural communication.

In the area of health, NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development was founded to raise health care standards in Jordan by improving practices in growth monitoring, diagnostics and treatment. The institute conducts primary field research among children; trains specialised health workers and produces informational materials to heighten parent and teacher awareness of early signs of childhood diseases and abnormalities. According to the most recent available data, there are 2900 children registered at the Institute's Maternity and Childhood unit while the number of children registered at the Child Development unit has reached 850. The foundation has also sponsored a health communication project to raise family awareness of the importance of breastfeeding for children in Jordan. Currently, the health communication project is developing television spots to educate families on how to maintain a safe environment for their children at home.

In the area of culture and arts, the foundation sponsors certain programmes to help children develop their potential in a creative manner. Queen Noor's Award for Children's Literature, established in 1988, seeks to encourage the production of quality Arabic children's literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, plays, folktales, and science fiction. The theme of this year's award is about science and technology and heritage. Entries include short stories, novels, drama, poems and lyrics. So far, about 90 writers and poets have competed for this award, which has been won by seven writers.

In arts, NHF's National Music Conservatory has been an important component of the foundation's children programmes. Launched in 1986 with a violin programme involving three Jordanian teachers and 45 gifted violin students between the ages of 6 and 18, the conservatory now offers young Jordanians the opportunity to develop their musical talents through individual and group instruction in a wide range of instruments. Currently, the Conservatory has a 200-student body and a 25-member teaching staff.

The foundation's approach to education seems to carry a shift from the traditional classroom-lecture setting to a more creative format, thus enabling children to learn more effectively as in the Theatre-in-Education project. Launched in 1987 to develop the educational process in Jordan

through the creative medium of drama, the project combines classroom and stage techniques with the natural play instinct of the young to promote self-awareness, confidence, learning ability and creative expression. The most recent production of the project has been a choreo presentation entitled "Sarkha... a Cry for Life," featured at the sidelines of the "Children of War: Where to?" seminar held in Amman in mid September. Two other, yet important educational tools employed by the foundation include the Children's Heritage and Science Museum and the Mobile Life and Science Museum. The former, designed to address 4-to-12 year old children includes displays that children can touch and manipulate to learn about the development of human kind. It is used to teach children about natural history, geography, science, the environment, outer space and other cultures. NHF statistics indicate that an average of 200 children visit the museum daily. The Mobile Museum, on the other hand, serves as an outreach programme for the former and caters to children who have no access to such facilities. In 1991, the Mobile Museum received about 34,000 visitors in different sites in Jordan.

To increase Jordanian children's pan-Arab intercultural interactions, the foundation inaugurated the Arab Children's Congress to bring together talented children from throughout the Arab World for two weeks of travel, learning and cultural interaction in Jordan. Launched in 1980 in the aftermath of the Amman eleventh Arab summit, the gathering has offered over 750 children from different Arab countries ample opportunities to interact with fellow Jordanian young men and get firsthand impressions of life in this country.

Meeting children's needs in the areas of health, nutrition and education is also taken into account in NHF's development programmes in rural areas. The Foundation's Quality of Life Project, being currently implemented in eight village communities throughout Jordan, employs an intersectoral approach to development through introducing income-generating schemes to rural Jordanian families. In the area of health services, the project has established several kindergartens, organised four medical days for children and sponsored health education programmes on child care and health in target communities.

## No, the world does not need a United Nations army

By John Gerard Ruggie

NEW YORK — Should the United Nations have offensive military capabilities at its disposal, as envisioned in the U.N. Charter? Secretary-General Boutros Ghali thinks it should, as do U.S. Senators Joseph Biden and David Boren, Russia, France and several smaller countries agree. An intense debate is about to begin.

Contrary to the new conventional wisdom, the proposals for a big U.N. army are premature and wrongheaded.

The recent expansion and diversification of U.N. peacekeeping activities — as in Namibia, Central America, Cambodia and Yugoslavia — already overwhelm the organisation's fiscal and administrative capacity.

U.N. civilian officials increasingly play the roles of human rights monitor, supervisor of electoral politics, and specialist administrator of a public agency, policeman, U.N. military personnel increasingly protect civilian populations, safeguard relief efforts, negotiate with local authorities or warlords the circumstances of their day-to-day functions, and cope with the constant threat of armed attack.

"The idea that the United Nations should have its own military capabilities to compel compliance with its edicts is impractical and counterproductive. It undermines the real basis of legitimacy that United Nations practice has accumulated."

Yet funding and logistics for these expanded mandates remain haphazard and inadequate. The United Nations has no standing stock of equipment, no capital reserve fund. No new operational doctrines have been devised for the new peacekeeping mode, and training for it is virtually nonexistent.

The United Nations' administrative apparatus for fielding the missions, monitoring their activities and responding to sudden and adverse shifts on the ground is shockingly small in size and short on military expertise.

It is a miracle that disaster has not yet befallen one of these peacekeeping missions and the troops from Australia, Austria, Canada, Fiji, Ireland, Malaysia, the Nordic countries, Poland and other middle and smaller powers that typically serve in them.

The first step of any "agenda for peace" is to strengthen the United Nations' ability to perform the tasks already taken on. This in itself will require major efforts, as shown by the reluctance of

many governments to adopt and pay for the necessary changes. But assume that governments, inspired by the new spirit of cooperation, managed to resolve these problems. Are U.N. offensive forces the appropriate next step?

No. The idea that the United Nations should have its own military capabilities to compel compliance with its edicts is impractical, counterproductive. The real basis of legitimacy that United Nations practice has accumulated.

The impracticality of what might be called a "compellence" role for the United Nations is easily demonstrated. In all of modern history there is only one successful instance of large-scale standing forces organised under an integrated multinational command structure: NATO. Mutual affinity and trust in global politics may have improved, but they are not of the same order as in the Atlantic community during the cold war.

The compellence role is counterproductive because so long as it remains even an ultimate U.N. goal, some countries, including the United States, will fear the slippery slope. Accordingly, they will impede progress on less ambitious although still consequential U.N. plans as a hedge against sliding down that slope. Finally, even a move towards small-scale U.N. combat forces undermines the legitimacy of the United Nations in international conflict resolution. The history of peacekeeping shows that its strength lies in impartiality, the interposed character of its forces, and their provision of support structures and services to peoples under stress. A compellence capability potentially contradicts each of these.

Is there a way for the United Nations to build up its military presence while avoiding these shortcomings? I believe there is. The logical extension of past practice would be to create substantial, well-equipped and mobile U.N. nonoffensive defensive forces, deployed in a preventive mode. Such forces would seek to deter and dissuade by posing a collectively endorsed defensive barrier rather than by the threat of compellence action.

Nonoffensive defensive forces armed with anti-tank and air defense systems, could be positioned in a straight-line perimeter, as along the Kuwait border after the mobilisation of Iraqi troops, or in inkblot patterns, as might have been appropriate around key Bosnian cities six months ago. In either case, they should be thought of as equipped as shields rather than as swords.

Nonoffensive preventive deployment could reduce the frequency of need for compellence action. The possibility of concerted offensive measures by the major military powers, organised in the ad hoc fashion of the Gulf war, would remain in place as the international community's ultimate military enforcement mechanism. International Herald Tribune.

## LETTERS

### For the whole world to know

To the Editor:

I am not sure how to express the wonderful feelings that have been growing inside me ever since His Majesty King Hussein came back.

His return to his Jordan was one of the most joyous days of my life. All those people out in the streets, singing and celebrating his homecoming, parading all over Jordan just to say "Welcome back Abu Abdullah," and "Thank God who brought you back to us safely."

When his Majesty's motorcade passed by, I felt like shouting to the world: "Look! That's my King! Those are my people, and this is my homeland!"

His Majesty is not only a King, but a father to us all. We all pray for His Majesty to stay our King for a long, long time.

Reem Hatamleh,  
Grade 10,  
Al Ma'arif School,  
Amman.

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# Weekender

Oct. 8, 1992 **A**

Published Every Thursday

## Concepts in the Structure of Space — a refreshing exhibition of abstract paintings

By Ica Wabba  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A doctor had the inspiration to swap the stethoscope for the paintbrush. And the result is an impressive collection of paintings, oil on canvas, ink or water colour on paper, that makes up George Sayegh's exhibition at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Art Gallery.

The canvases are almost exclusively made up of the geometric motifs. The thematic is varied, touching mythology and day to day life, spiritual and material subjects and having the fairy tales quality of the good prevailing over the bad, light over darkness.

Amman is represented in different postures: At night, at dawn, at sunset, in spring. The outline of the city is projected on the horizon with cubes, squares and rectangles of dark colours giving the impression of a high-rise city under a full moon.

The colours are predominantly ink blue, black, brown, deep purple, playfully interspersed with crude green, pastel, ice pink or white patches that brighten the mood, give depth and perspective.

Little cubes and rectangles are precariously perched on

top of each other, in a lego-like construction, with the ambitious aim of touching the sky, reaching infinity. Or they split the canvases into different planes, creating movement and life.

Pointed arches, domes, minarets are superimposed on horizontal strata, carefully spaced, making up the painting the artist calls "Jerusalem."

Stylised figures, similar to those painted on tourist dolls, are huddled in a delicate group, that of a happy family, titled "The Holy Family."

The doctor's precision is manifest in the clear-cut contours and carefully delineated spaces.

The unidimensional paintings are rarely given depth or perspective. When that happens, it is because of the colour arrangement and not because of change in size.

Two interlaced figures, a barely discernible group, is that of "Adam and Eve," while an agglomeration of ochre, brown, olive green everpresent geometric figures "brings to life" playing children.

The artist seems to favour poster-like portraits, as two sets of paintings are part of his "private collection."

Three busts with similarly looking heads are interesting

in that one could find (in a biased sort of way) a professional approach towards painting. One seems to be an X-rayed bluish portrait, another a dissected head while the last seems to have passed through a scanner, with colour patches dividing it.

In strong burgundy red, olive green, dark blue and white, the painting titled "20th Century Goliath" is a gripping one. The Palestinian flag is symbolically raised over the Magen David, a fallen, defeated black star, as seen through the eyes of the artist.

"The Horses Of The Apocalypse" are less evocative of the final doom, with their bright, pastel colours, but more suggestive of a freeze meant to brighten up a child's room.

Computer-like stylised squares or distorted parabolas make up "Trees In Blossom." And, for a change, a pale peachy pink background, with red, blue and mauve geometrical forms, creates "music."

Juxtaposing two or three canvases is an interesting technique the artist uses, and it produces some sort of intrinsic movement. It is the case with Amman at dawn, two paintings next to each

other, with circles intersected by squares and rectangles in vivid colours.

A philosophical outlook at life is provided by a canvas called "Oneness." Two circles are fusing, ending up in one stem in a flower pot — a symbolic representation of lives apart, meeting at one point and ending together.

An interesting change to the geometric motifs — though unexpected — is brought about by a group of eight framed and glassed watercolours. More in the classical way of painting, they contain a small domestic universe of flowers and fruits, birds and a peaceful mother and child group as well as a wild African dance under an orange sun.

The same technique is used to represent a more elevated thought: The spiritual, Biblical thematic of saints, flood, fire and conforted, tortured figures. One has flashing images of icons or church wall decorations and the same feeling of awe descends upon the viewer.

And ending the cycle of watercolour on paper is the group of intifada paintings. The four works represent a conglomeration of stylised buildings and crowds bringing to mind the stone-throwing children and the



One of the paintings by the artist George Sayegh currently on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Art Gallery.

narrow alleyways where they seek escape.

One painting, meeting the visitor at the entrance, is that of the Palestinian flag, vertical stripes of colour encompassing the figures of a man and a woman. The technique, stylised figures against bold-coloured backgrounds, will set the tone for most of the works on display.

And again to baffle the viewer, at the entrance (or exit) into the gallery, there is yet another group of works, black ink on paper, all sketching aspects of the intifada.

Maybe there are one too many styles present at the exhibition, but it is refreshing seeing its precise abstractionism.

The "Concepts In The Structure Of Space," as the exhibition is named, has opened on Wednesday, Oct. 7, and will last through Oct. 31.

### Book reviews

## Twenty-five years in limbo

The Sealed Room  
By Raja Shehadeh  
Quarterm Books, London 1992, £14.95

During the Gulf War Israelis were told to take cover in a sealed room against the danger of an Iraqi attack with chemical weapons. As a Palestinian living under Israeli occupation, Raja Shehadeh found himself in the same situation — though with a difference. Like all the other Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, he was confined to his house by a curfew which the Israeli army enforced for six weeks: a collective punishment of exceptional duration.

As he reflected on his situation and that of his fellow Palestinians, the sealed room acquired for him a symbolic meaning. For nearly a quarter of a century the Palestinians under occupation had been living in isolation, in a kind of limbo not unlike the sealed room — except, of course, that they were not there for their own protection but in order to deny them the exercise of their right to freedom and self-expression while others made off with their inheritance. Some of them had tried to break out of their isolation and to recover, by defiance or by submission, the right to live with dignity. Raja Shehadeh had chosen a thoroughly practical path by founding the human rights organisation al-Haq, in order to document, with a lawyer's precision, the multifarious ways in which the rights of the Palestinians were being infringed by their Israeli overlords.

He also wrote an altogether remarkable book, *The Third Way* (Quarterm 1982), in which imagination and a sense of irony combined to give the reader a vivid impression of what it is like to live under military occupation. The present volume, based like the first on the author's diaries, takes up the story after a lapse of ten years and in it Raja Shehadeh exercises the same blend of often self-critical analysis and a lawyer's sharp-eyed observation. But there is a difference and it is not difficult to see why. That further decade of occupation, of fruitless appeals to international opinion, of intensified colonisation in the occupied territories, of even harsher repression since the start of the intifada four and a half years ago — the effect of all this is apparent in *The Sealed Room* in a tone of increased bitterness, and sometimes of contempt, for a regime so careless of its moral as well as its legal obligations.

The book was written at the nadir of Palestinian hopes when the combined effect of the Gulf war, the eclipse of the PLO and the refusal of the Israelis under Shamir to give the slightest recognition to Palestinian rights seemed to close every approach to a just peace. If Raja Shehadeh were writing today, with Rabin in place of Shamir, I wonder whether he would greatly modify his approach. Rabin has been personally associated with so much of the cruelty that has characterised Israel's dealings with the Palestinians that they will need concrete proof before they take his declared intentions at face value. For a realist like Shehadeh, the test will be whether under Rabin the Israelis show greater respect for the law — Middle East International.

Michael Adams

## Cookbook for cuisine klutzes and kitchen pros

By Lancy Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Having a dinner party and don't know what to cook? Even worse, don't know how to cook?

Relax. The Middle East version of Betty Crocker is on the market.

Produced by the American Women of Amman (AWA), *Sahtain Wa Hana Cookbook*

tempts taste buds with more than 350 Arabic and international dishes. From stuffed grape leaves to stuffed squash to the unsociable garlic-toss, *Sahtain Wa Hana* is for both the kitchen pro and "cuisine klutz."

The cookbook, the fifth edition since 1971, grew out of the hundreds of dinners AWA members attended

with family and friends since this group was formed in 1963 from informal coffees held by American embassy wives and American women married to Jordanians.

"As we (American women married to Jordanians) got acquainted with our Jordanian families and neighbours, we learned new dishes from our in-laws and friends and one day decided to start a collection," said AWA member and cookbook organiser Marie Bayyat.

The cookbook is also meant to "shorten the miles" with families back home.

"AWA members have introduced their families back home to the many delicious Middle Eastern dishes they have learned to prepare and master while living in Jordan. Likewise, the ladies have delighted the palates of their Jordanian families and friends with foods of their home country."



### RECIPE

#### Stuffed squash in tomato sauce (koosa mahshi)

2 lbs. small squash  
1 C rice 2/3 chopped meat (coarsely ground)  
1 T melted ghee or butter (optional)  
1 tsp salt and 1 tsp mixed spices  
1/2 C tomato sauce  
hot water  
salt and pepper  
2-3 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 T dried mint

Wash squash, cut stems and scoop out seeds of squash. Scoop with a thin blade corer, being careful not to break squash. Set aside. Mix washed rice, meat, ghee and spices together. Stuff squash loosely with mixture, do not pack tightly. Arrange stuffed squash in a sauce pan. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce, salt and pepper over squash. Add enough water to cover, bring to a boil, then reduce to medium low heat and cook for 25 minutes, until squash is tender. When almost done, sprinkle mint and garlic over top of squash and simmer a few minutes longer.

VARIATIONS: The same stuffing may be used for tomatoes, green peppers and small unpeeled eggplants. After coring the eggplants, drop in a bowl of salted cold water to keep from darkening and to remove any bitter taste.

## Taiwan — a dynamic society

TAIWAN, in the course of its social and economic development, is one of only a few countries which have successfully transformed their social and economic structure from old modes of production and standard of values into modern ones in such a relatively short period of time. In a number of instances it has even been cited as an exceptional example of social and economic development, meaning that country, which has sustained a high economic growth rate over the past four decades, has not succumbed to the pitfalls of so-called development with dependence. On the contrary, Taiwan has become an outstanding model of redistribution with growth.

Although many internal and external factors have contributed to this redistribution with growth, two in particular have played a primary role. The first is Taiwan's high level of education. The very low illiteracy rate is an accomplishment rarely witnessed in most developing countries. A simultaneous increase in the number of graduates from universities and technical colleges has not only provided the manpower needed for industrialisation, but has also increased social mobility and brought a more equal social stratification.

The second factor is consistently high rate of labour participation and a correspondingly low rate of unemployment.

Over the past decades, unemployment has never been higher than 2.5 per cent. Even during the global oil crisis, the unemployment rate remained below 3 per cent. In fact, the country now faces a pressing shortage of semi-skilled or less-skilled labour because of a low incentive to work among active industrial workers. This forced the government to introduce a new labour policy to allow in alien workers from neighbouring countries. Furthermore, economic investment has remained low, to the detriment of uplifting its industry from labour-intensive to technical — and capital-intensive level.

In view of these changes in the 1990s, it's confident to say that Taiwan will undoubtedly maintain its momentum and dynamism as it makes the transition from a NIC (newly industrialised country) to a fully industrialised nation.

The country is bound to encounter two major social challenges during the mid-1990s. The first is a growing disparity between rich and poor. The ratio of the top 20 per cent of income earners to the bottom 20 per cent averaged about 4.5 to 1, a clear indicator of improved income redistribution. Since 1990, the gap between the rich and poor has widened from 4.5 to 4.8 and higher.

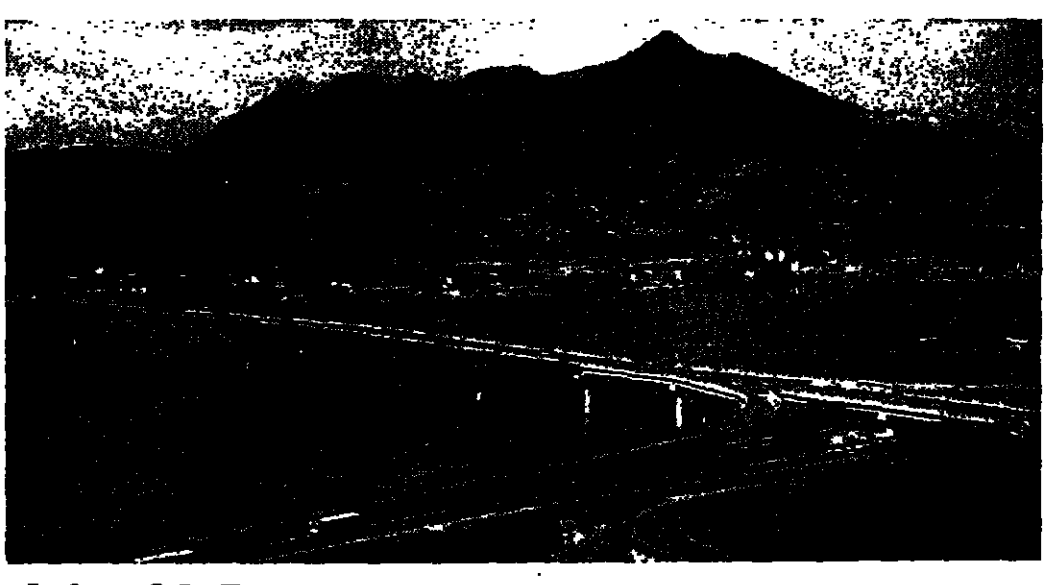
The second is an awakening consciousness of civil rights among the populace which

leads to growing pressure from the general public for more social safeguards and a more extensive social welfare system. This in turn will inevitably lead to more government intervention in the distribution and redistribution of social and economic resources, as well as political resources at times.

In this respect, the government has adopted and implemented several policies. The first is a set of guidelines for public housing designed to meet the needs of lower income citizens, the target of building at least 100,000 apartment units over the next five years for either rental or purchase. The special programme is to assist workers by providing low interest loan home purchases.

Another significant programme is the development of new towns surrounding metropolitan areas. Which are designed to ease the pressure for housing in urban areas. The government will develop the requisite infrastructure — roads, water, and power supply, transportation etc. — before the ground of a new town is broken.

The second policy involves a programme for on-the-job training and employment promotion to facilitate an upgrade from labour-intensive to technically-intensive industry. The government has promulgated the Employment Service Law to facilitate employ-



A view of the Tamsui River

ment opportunity and regulate labour exchange. The new law will lay the foundation for regulating the imminent influx of foreign workers into Taiwan.

The third policy guideline calls for social welfare in a changing society. The needs for welfare have not only emerged out of awakening consciousness for social welfare rights, but derived out of a rapid demographic shift toward an aging society. The government is presently preparing a policy for social welfare development during the 1990s which will define the parameters of both governmental and non-governmental welfare mechanisms in meeting the needs of the elderly, the handicapped,

young adults, children.

The government budget for welfare and social safeguards has substantially increased from less than 10 per cent of the total central government budget before 1988 to more than 15 per cent in 1992. The government has also encouraged individuals families and private welfare agencies with subsidies and grants to function as primary care-providers for needy people. These policy guidelines are also designed to avoid the drawbacks of centralised state welfare administration encountered in some Western nations.

Based upon the above policy guidelines, Taiwan has in the past few years launched at least three major social programmes

designed to lead to a welfare society. The first is a nationwide health insurance programme planned for mid-1994 that will cover the total population of 20.5 million people in Taiwan.

The second programme is an integrated social welfare system for socially and economically disadvantaged citizens.

The third programme will implement an integrated employment network for occupational training and employment consultation.

Coupled with the dynamism generating the rapid pace of development in recent years, implementation of the above programmes should move Taiwan quickly and smoothly toward a welfare society.

## Drug trade — the growers' view

Why People Grow Drugs: Narcotics And Development in the Third World  
Published by the Panos Institute. Price £7.95

LONDON — "Coca is like our child. It keeps us alive; it helps us send our youngsters to school. Though its price goes up and down, it's still a sure income" — Bolivian farmer.

International attention has focused largely on the narcotics issue as a criminal conspiracy — from New York's violent 'crack' scene, to the dramatic prison escape of a Colombian drug baron and money laundering by powerful drug cartels. But little account has been taken of the farmers who grow the coca crops and poppies which end up as cocaine and heroin to supply the West.

A new book — *Why People Grow Drugs: Narcotics and Development in the Third World* — provides a fresh and important angle on the narcotics debate: the need for alternative forms of economic development in producer countries.

The book contains case-studies written by journalists from Pakistan, Thailand, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. Each covers a different facet of the problem but highlights their common root — the lack of integrated rural development programmes.

Growers often live in remote, sometimes recently settled, areas which lack government support or basic infrastructure. Their survival options are therefore severely limited. Growing narcotics can offer a low-cost entry into the cash economy: regular markets, substantial financial rewards and the use of simple farming methods. It can also offer relative autonomy where governments have failed to meet survival needs.

But growers' demands are not limited to economics; many would be willing to achieve greater self-determination and participation in local government as part of the trade-off in giving up their narcotics crops, says the book.

Now that the U.S. government's law enforcement approach has been dismissed by many as a failure, and crop substitution programmes also seem to have limited success, the challenge is to build on the experience of affected communities to find better ways to meet their needs.

"The war against drugs... may ultimately be won not by guns and laws, but by the development of viable alternatives for producers," concludes Jon Tinker, President of the Panos Institute — Panos Feature.



## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

## Thursday, Oct. 8

## 8:30 Uncle Buck

Uncle Buck takes over as custodian of his late brother's three children.

## 9:10 Civil Wars

## 10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week  
The Guys

## Friday, Oct. 9

## 8:30 Too Close For Comfort

## 9:10 Good Guys

## Tooth

The two guys set out for Briarhill, where Lofthouse's niece Jo lives together with her younger sister Christine. A dreadful shock awaits them.

Jo is dead. Her body was discovered on the railway line early this morning. The police believe she committed suicide but Christine is convinced that she was murdered by her boss, the estate agent Eric Waterfield.

Supported by the two guys, Christine identifies her sister's body and asks to see the pathologist's report. Detective Chief Inspector Stannard, who plays everything by the book, refuses. His superior, Superintendent Masters produces a suicide note. Christine believes her

sister was compelled to write it. Masters is doubtful. He shows them the post mortem report: There is no trace of drink or drugs.

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 El. C.I.D.

## Ticket To Ride

Blake, Bromley and Steve win 25,000 pounds each in the Spanish lottery.

## Saturday, Oct. 10

## 8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

## 9:00 Perspective

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 Feature Film

## Tagget

## Starring: Daniel Travanti

An ex-Vietnam veteran gets caught between the CIA and the KGB.

## Sunday, Oct. 11

## 8:30 Coach

## 9:10 Documentary-Fragile Earth

## Mucking Up The Med

Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and how governments are trying to cope with it.

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 Midnight Caller

## Monday, Oct. 12

## 8:30 The Powers That Be

Senator Power fails to awaken his wife's tender memories.

## 9:10 Gone To The Dogs

A luxury wedding party for Jimmy Jr. and his wife Debbie and a happy ending between Larry and his pregnant wife Lauren.

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 The Gravy Train

## Tuesday, Oct. 13

## 8:30 Empty Nest

## Roots

## 9:10 TECX

## Fall From Grace

Sexual manipulation and political corruption at the EC Headquarters in Brussels.

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 When The Lion Roars

## Wednesday, Oct. 14

## 8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zak and the others prepare a nice birthday party to Skreach.

## 9:00 Wednesday Forum

## 9:30 Cluedo

## Count down

It is a big day for the parish church of Arlington and its incumbent, the Reverend Green. The bishop is paying a visit. But what devil's work has been at play? The churchyard has been taken over by a commune of hippies, led by the very mellow Dave who has struck up a deep and meaningful relationship with Miss Scarlett. Mrs. Peacock is as concerned as the vicar.

A group of hippie layabouts camping at Arlington could vastly reduce the property prices. Meanwhile Professor Plum turns a whiter shade of pale when he meets Dave at the dinner table — the two have met before. But one question remains. Exactly why is Colonel Mustard allowing the hippies to also camp on his land? Could Dave have some sort of hold over him? Disturbing the residents of Arlington was not a clever idea. Some people have died for less.

## 10:00 News In English

## 10:20 Bangkok Hilton

The father leaves for London to find the drug trafficker who used his daughter.

## Auntie

By E. Yaghi

The best time of all when I was a child was to be told, "We're going to Auntie's house!"

As far back as I can remember, Auntie seemed like a fairy godmother who was capped with snow white hair and lived in a cute, magical "gingerbread house."

Her home was situated in a small mountain community in the Northwestern United States where she and her parents had immigrated from Sweden in the early 1900's. At first, my aunt, or rather, my great aunt bought a plot of land and built a basement where she and her parents lived for a time before they saved up enough money to add the upstairs story. However, the basement remained my favourite hideaway, a cool refuge from hot summers and an inviting spot where cookie jars were stashed away, loaded with treasures of homemade cookies. My older brother and I took turns raiding those jars when no one was looking, but I suspect that only a fool wouldn't have noticed the depleted stocks. Even better than the sweets, there stood in the corner, an old iron stove (that burned on coal) no longer in use. It was an antique as was most of the other furniture in the basement and a source of amusement for me. I could never imagine why anyone would ever stop using such a gem of equipment and replace it with an electric stove (which offered no challenge or adventure even though it was cleaner and easier to use).

Opposite the old stove was a white chest of drawers which contained "ancient" boards brought over from the "old country" — Sweden. I always considered auntie and her parents whom I called, "grandma" and "grandpa," to be real pioneers like the first pilgrims who had settled in New England long ago.

One mountain-scented spring day, grandpa made me a swing tied on to an old oak tree and although it was structured of a crude wooden seat and was supported by thick rope, it was the most beautiful swing in the world, an enchanting place where I spent hours gliding through feathery clouds as I dreamed impossible dreams and sang fairy tale songs.

To the front of auntie's white house, two white birch trees stood guard on either side of the walk. When auntie wasn't watching, my brother and I would climb up and perch on higher branches and check out the neighbourhood for pirates or other suspicious looking characters. And always, when auntie wasn't around, the terrace was so much fun to somersault down on its luxuriant green carpet of grass. But sometimes, her white head would appear at the porch window or she would chide us from the front door. As soon as we reached the bottom of the terrace, we would then skip back up, clutching the black worsted iron railing and count the cracked cement steps as we went.

Our quieter moments were spent inside, for rowdiness was strictly forbidden in the halls of auntie's chambers. The enclosed porch caught the early morning sun and cast a halo of light on an old writing desk where auntie would jot

down notes to friends on scented flowered writing paper. The living-room elegantly displayed literary magazines where poetry was printed in an inviting script by such "Homey" authors as Robert Frost. I can still remember the red plush velvet sofa that must have been brought over from Sweden too. It looked royal and small children weren't allowed to sit on it. Auntie never let the "idiot box" (television) invade her home because she believed it was a contraption of nonsense and a waste of valuable time. "If a person has a leisure moment," she would scold, "it can best be used in reading or admiring God's creations!"

When she wasn't busy with her job as principal of the local elementary school, auntie would either be tending to her mother and father, baking pies and cookies or preparing a picnic basket for a mountain outing. On such an occasion, we would all jump in grandpa's old car and head for a national park dotted with wooden benches and tables, set to the music of a babbling brook filled with trout. We spent the day among fir trees and pine, played on stubbled grass or picked bouquets of wild flowers of every imaginable colour. Just before the sun sank below the dark blue mountains, we would reluctantly gather our things and head for the gingerbread house.

I never remembered auntie without white hair. Her flashing hazel eyes had then faded from her long ago youth but they were so full of life and sparkled when she spoke to us of honest and worthy goals we children should fight for. Her clothes were always crisp and neat and she smelled like the violets she grew. In fact, her hobby was her garden where she planted tomatoes, peas, carrots, lettuce and lots of roses, also pansies, bluebells, daisies, tulips, and naturally, violets. She never married because she chose to care for her elderly parents and also raised an orphaned niece and nephew who had grown and gone before I was born.

Regrettably, I grew up and moved away from the crystal mountain springs, auntie's gingerbread house and most of all, auntie herself. We faithfully wrote to each other over the years until her letters stopped coming. My mother finally sent a belated telegram notifying me of auntie's death. She had died alone, she who had devoted all her life to her parents, her niece and nephew and in the end, the few faithful who still hadn't succumbed to death.

I was further saddened to learn later from my brother (my former partner in crime when we chose to be naughty) that auntie's surviving niece and nephew had battled over every possession in her treasured house and had then sold the building to a real estate agent. So, the pioneer woman who had left the shores of Sweden when she was 11 years old to travel by boat with her parents to "the land of opportunity," and later dedicated her life to others, died alone and everything she worked for to build and take care of, died with her. Gone is the sweet companionship of my "auntie," gone is her gingerbread house, my rope swing and her flower garden, to strangers who could never love her pilgrim home or care for it as she did. Gone forever too, are those magical summers when I could swing and sing to the stars in that wonderful land of yesterday.

## How clever can you get?

By Sumayyah Abu Hamdiyyeh

Until a few years ago only boys could become students at the University of Ruritania. Then the university decided to allow girls in. But one of the lecturers, Dr. Goller, was not at all pleased. He had not wanted to let female students in.

Dr. Goller always used to begin his lectures with the word, "Gentlemen!" What would he do now? Well, when female students came to his lectures for the first time, he continued to begin with the word, "Gentlemen!" For him,

the girls were just not there. Then one day, there was only one boy in his class among a lot of girls. For a moment, Dr. Goller did not know what to do. Then he began with a "Sir!"

Finally, a terrible day came when there were no boys in his class. He came into the room, looked at the sea of girls, said, "Oh, nobody's here today!" turned and went out without giving his lecture.

The writer is a student of English literature at the University of Jordan.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

— New York Film Festival has this year presented 27 films that incarnate "the blessing of food" and "the sweetness of satisfaction."

— A Canadian family uses red wine to catch cockroaches!

— The American Western film entitled They Went Through This Direction, produced in 1948, did not include even one bullet.

— A backboned lizard's ribs contain glands that can excrete poison.

## LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

## Familiar Phrases

- I am sorry: Muta'assif
- What is the matter? Shu jari'lak? Shu malak?
- I caught a cold. Murash'sheh.
- I have a headache. Rasi buja'ni.
- I didn't sleep this night. Ma nimt fi hal'laila.
- Since when have you been ill? Min almta marid?
- It is temporary, I hope. Shiddet wetzul, inshallah.
- Many thanks; obliged. Kattir khairak; mamnun.
- How is your wife/children? Keif hal maratka/awladak?
- They greet you. They are quite well. Bisalnu alaik.
- Thank God. Sih'hit'hom ktr mliha.
- Convey them my salutation. Ihmadu li'l'lah.
- And how is your mother? Ihdimom sala'mi.
- As usual. She cannot leave the house. Hasab adit'ha.
- Ma filha titla minilbait.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

## Arts

1. Who was known as the faultless painter?
2. Picasso was the founder of what type of art?
3. What is a rose window?
4. Name the artist who saw J. Ruskin for libel?
5. In ancient painting why are some saints shown with a square nimbus (halo)?
6. To what do "still life" paintings refer?
7. Why was Tintoretto so called?

## MY NAME: This is what it means!

- IBRAHIM: Father of prophets.
- EHSAN: Doing good; perfection.
- AHMAD: Being thanked and lauded, (also Mahmud).
- ADAM: Father of mankind. He was so called because he was created from dust.
- ADHAM: The black; the shackle.

Solutions on page D.

## JOKES AND CRACKS

The two young men who chose the navy as their career, were asked, "Do you know how to swim?" They both looked puzzled and one replied, "What's the matter? Aren't there enough ships?"

★ ★ ★ ★

Terry: How did Mama find out you didn't really take a bath?  
Larry: I forgot to wet the soap.

★ ★ ★ ★

There was only one piece of cake left on the table, and mother divided it between Samia and Lamia. Samia looked at her mother's empty plate and said, "Mama, I can't enjoy my cake when you're not having any. Take Lamia's."

★ ★ ★ ★

Father: Did you eat all the apples, Tom?  
Tom: I didn't touch one.  
Father: That's strange. There's only one left.  
Tom: That's the one I didn't touch.

## PUZZLES

1. A man smashed a clock and was brought to trial for killing time. He was acquitted. Why?
2. What word becomes shorter if you add two letters to it?
3. What can you swallow that can also swallow you?
4. What kind of keys won't open a door?
5. What can you hold without touching it?

## YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

ABSENCE: If absent friends come to you in sleep, they will be returning, probably at short notice.

LADDER: A sign of warning. You will be apt to incur debts and lose your friends.

EATING: Others eating is a sign of good fortune. To be eating yourself indicates quarrels and separations.

KISS: A great deal of kissing means that you will receive a present quite soon.

BATHING: To dream of bathing and swimming in deep water shows achievement very satisfying to yourself. If the water is too shallow, a sense of frustration is present.

CUP: A full cup spells opportunities in the near future, but an empty one means trifling worries.

## That filthy old alley

By Natalie Melides Yegenian

People always try to push unfavourable memories back into the deepest corner of their minds, and unfortunately, I am one of those people. It seems that trying to achieve this, however, is as difficult as attempting to catch a glimmer of light through the silent keyhole of my isolated cell: Far from human voices, human beliefs and human principles.

Tonight, just another ponderous night, marks by second anniversary inside my condemned cell. The casual look I throw at the walls makes me realise (again) how empty and dull they actually are. Nevertheless, it is relieving to open up my eyes every dawn to look a grey uncompromising bricks; for these bricks have become my only friends.

The memory of that haunting scene flashes again in front of my eyes: A filthy old alley showing no signs of life except for the old Greek inn which seemed to be so much out of place, probably due to the joyous and gay sounds and voices which filled the alley and evaporated through the air till they reached the cold tenements in the next street, submerging dwellers there in more dreams and sweet hallucinations.

These harmonious tunes provided a great contrast to the stillness which should have been characteristic of that alley. But why couldn't these tunes have the same narcotic influence on the dwellers of the dirty shacks crammed in nearby slums only a few steps away from the inn?

Just opposite that inn there stood the only other source

of life in the dead alley: John's Bakery. A little haggard boy dressed in rags stood with dreamy eyes in front of the display window. With each time the Greek music made its dancers go down with the beat, the boy further stretched his hands out to lay his tiny fingers on the thin and challenging layer of glass standing between him and a golden-brown loaf of bread he craved for, as though the act itself brought him closer to the contents of the display.

By the time the dancers started going around and dancing in a semi-circle in the inn, a man who had appeared out of nowhere was pushing his fist hard against that flimsy layer, crashing the glass and directing his injured hand towards the loaf. He handed it over to the little boy who immediately ran away with his treasure.

A baby cried in one of the shacks and some sleepers in the next street tenements tossed about in their sleep, but the music which went on undisturbed at the inn was capable of banishing them back into their deepest dreams.

Back to my only friend: The cell wall, I see on its ancient blank pages the tenacious memory of this stubborn scene against which I struggle hard every day in order to push it back in its tomb where it belongs. It is not the memory of the hunger I saw in the innocent green eyes of that little boy.

The writer is a student of English literature at the University of Jordan.

## Researchers explore psychological terrain of faces

By Michael Hill  
The Associated Press

TROY, New York — If bald isn't beautiful, at least it makes a man appear intelligent. But bearded men beware, your whiskers may tell strangers you're not so nice.

Those are some recent findings of psychologists who study the judgements people make when they see a strange face.

Since at least Aristotle, observers have speculated that faces reveal the inner woman and man. But now researchers say they are making headway into just what it is people read into others' looks.

"There's some predictability in the judgements people make based on appearances," said Diane Berry, an associate professor of psychology at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas.

A study by psychologist Michael Wogalter, formerly of Rensselaer Polytechnic In-

stitute in Troy, found beards make men seem older, less attractive and less sociable than their clean-shorn counterparts.

Wogalter, now an assistant professor of psychology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, said he didn't know why facial hair was viewed unfavourably, according to his research.

But he noted that beards must have a big impact on perceptions because "hair is the most salient feature of the face."

Or lack of hair. The same study, in which Prof. Wogalter asked people to render their impressions of computer-generated mug shots, found balding men were perceived as smarter and a little older.

A bit of extra good news for bald men is that the presence of cranial hair had no apparent effect on how viewers rated relative attractiveness.

Other studies have found that people with large eyes

tend to be seen as warm and honest. But, then, big-eyed people also give the impression of being naive and submissive, researchers say.

Caroline Keating of Colgate University sees a pattern in all this.

She has a theory that certain male features, like receding hairlines, may have evolved to attract mates. To this day, she said, such mature features are viewed as commanding because they imply age and status.

Other researchers have suggested that beards were worn by our ancestors to look threatening. Because facial hair increases the apparent mass of the lower face, it may have helped our forefathers to intimidate each other while also attracting the best mates.

"I think, by and large, we like males who look powerful and dominant, not naive and submissive," Ms. Keating said.

But while mature features may make men more desir-

able to the opposite sex, Ms. Keating said, that's not so true for women.

"As anybody's grandmother can tell you, I suppose, age in males does not confer the disadvantages it does in females," she said.

Round cheeks, big eyes, full lips and other "baby-like" features are generally viewed as attractive in women, according to Ms. Keating. Notably, women in Western societies wear makeup to accentuate those attributes.

Many scientists, however, dismiss the belief that character traits can be divined through faces.

Alvin Goldstein, a psychologist now retired from the faculty at the University of Missouri in Columbia, who studied facial recognition for decades, said there's no good evidence that character can be divined by looking at faces.

"It's folklore," he said, dismissively.



## Sarafina — a South African film about black South Africans

By Hillel Italie  
The Associated Press

Sarafina playwright Mbongeni Ngema, who assisted on the screenplay.

"With all due respect to everybody involved in a good cause, when I saw those other movies, something would disturb me inside," Ngema said during a recent interview at a Manhattan hotel.

"I always knew I could tell the story better. I lived that life, so nobody could tell it better than I could tell it. Those stories, the protagonist, was always white. Black people in those movies are always serving as backdrop as opposed to them being the story."

Films about South Africa became popular in the mid-1980s, at a time when the white government's policies of racial separation and oppression were receiving worldwide attention. Many documentaries focused on blacks, but features rarely have crossed the colour line.

Richard Attenborough, director of the Academy Award-winning Gandhi, started it off in 1987 with Cry Freedom, a 2 1/2-hour drama about white journalist Donald Woods and his friendship with the slain black activist Stephen Biko.

"A story like Cry Freedom, which was really a Stephen Biko story, ended up being a Donald Woods story," Ngema said of the film that starred Kevin Kline as Woods and Denzel Washington as Biko.

"To all the black South Africans that was really disturbing. It was like changing this important history, this hero who died for the struggle. Could you imagine if Malcolm X was told from a white point of view? Maybe they did those movies because they thought black movies were not going to bring money into the box office."

A Dry White Season and A World Apart followed. Again, they were supportive of the struggle, but their stories were from a white point of view. A Dry White Season centred on the political education of a naive schoolmaster, Donald Sutherland, while A World Apart starred Barbara Hershey as a political activist.

Why was this happening? The marketplace, apparently, or at least a perception of it. Attenborough has said he didn't think Biko's story would attract as wide an audi-

ence. Dry White Season director Euzhan Palcy admitted she wanted her film to be about blacks, but could only raise money by focusing on a white.

A few black-themed movies have come out. The low-budget Mapantsula, produced on the sly in South Africa and released in the United States in 1989, followed a young street thief caught up in the anti-apartheid movement. The film received excellent reviews, but was not widely seen.

Another was a television production, Mandela, which came out on HBO in 1987, and featured Danny Glover in the title role and Alfre Woodard as his wife, Winnie Mandela.

"It was a very bad movie," Ngema said. "I felt so sorry for Danny Glover because the movie was so badly made. They had no clue. They should have brought in a South African to pull it off. In terms of writing it, in terms of directing, there was nothing that was South African in it, except that it was about Mandela."

Ngema, the son of a policeman, was born in 1955 in Verulam, which the govern-

ment soon proclaimed an Indians-only area under the Group Areas Act. He grew up in several townships, including Kwa-Mashu, Umlazi and Umkhumbane.

As a teenager, Ngema became politically and artistically active. He was arrested and jailed for failing to have his passbook, which blacks were required to carry at all times. He also took up guitar and would perform at concerts with his father and brother.

By the late 1970s, Ngema was involved in South African theatre as an actor and writer and in 1984 he had his first major success with Asinamali, which brought him a Tony nomination for best director and made him an unwelcome presence to the South African government.

"In 1985, they sent some assassins to come and kill me," he said. "They arrived just when I had left and ended up killing my friend, who they thought was me. They butchered him, they killed him brutally. That really mobilised people."

"The next day news was getting around that I had died. I'm saying, 'no, I'm



Whoopi Goldberg plays the teacher's role in the film Sarafina

here. I didn't know my friend had died. Even the press had been told I was murdered. It's been rough going, really rough going."

A conversation with Winnie Mandela in 1985 inspired Ngema to write Sarafina. They were discussing the role children played in the anti-apartheid movement and he decided to put together a musical based on that idea.

"Plays, films, music — they play a very, very important role in making everybody aware of what is going on," he said. "They mobilise the people. There were times we felt like we were lost. But what we have done is revitalise people, even those that thought they were collapsing."

## Reality confirms novelist's grim imaginings

By Shawn Pogatchnik  
The Associated Press

CROSSGAR, Northern Ireland — As David Park agonised over the final chapter of his first novel, "The Healing," he feared he had created a work of exaggeration and fantasy.

Then the radio brought news of another man shot dead, this one in front of his two children by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"The wee boy phoned his grandparents while his father's body was lying there," recalled Mr. Park, who pulled a newspaper from his bookshelf and read the child's reported words: "Nanna, could you come and mind us, for a bad man has come and shot my daddy dead."

It was a sobering reminder of the bitter dispute that overshadows his homeland, where 3,000 people have died

in the past 23 years of sporadic political and sectarian violence.

Too many children have grown up amid competing tribal mythologies, perverted values and mounting grievance, Mr. Park said.

In The Healing and his earlier collection of short stories, Oranges From Spain, Mr. Park seeks to flesh out the bare bones of statistics (an estimated 25,000 civilians and 10,000 soldiers wounded).

"A large and growing number of kids have seen things that they shouldn't have seen. They must carry so many awful things in their head. I worry about them," said Mr. Park, whose novel is dedicated to "the children afflicted by dreams."

The book charts the suffering of a 12-year-old boy, Samuel, who falls mute after witnessing the murder of his father, a sergeant in the local

British army unit, in their farm field.

His mother uproots the family back to Protestant East Belfast, where their elderly neighbour, a fundamentalist given to quoting the Bible to explain himself, keeps a collection of newspaper clippings documenting each fatality of the troubles.

He has seen media coverage of the funeral, and hopes to help the boy's haunted soul.

Samuel is taken briefly under the wings of both the man and his grown son, Billy, who secretly belongs to a Protestant paramilitary gang that targets Catholics in vengeance for IRA violence.

Each offers the boy a way to cope with his loss — the father through Christian faith, the son through violence. In the process, Samuel feels the inflexible pull of the Northern Irish Protestant inheritance: Religious fundamentalism and a political

creed of "what we have, we hold."

Neither extreme ultimately offers him the healing the title suggests. The son is exposed and murdered; the old man driven to suicide. The boy is left alone again, but this time aware of a grief that extends beyond his own.

"In Northern Ireland there are many groups that offer the concept of healing, or salvation," said Mr. Park. "Violence in Ireland has long been presented as a kind of redemptive thing. There's this mentality that without the shedding of blood, there's no remission of sin."

Mr. Park, 39, is part of the majority of people who have grown up in relative peace. Born to working-class devout Baptists in East Belfast, he studied English at nearby Queen's University and became a teacher.

He lives with his wife, a ceramic artist, and his 1-year-

old son in a new house in Verdant County down south of Belfast. In nearby Downpatrick he teaches English at a state high school that is almost entirely Protestant.

"I haven't seen or experienced anything of the troubles other than I have read in newspapers or seen on the television," he said flatly.

"I sometimes wish I had a really dramatic story — you know, I'd been burnt out of my old home or something. But I moved out into the country because it's closer to work and because it's pretty."

His writing career began almost by accident, he said, in the early 1980s when he wrote a few short stories to share with his pupils, aged 11 to 16.

That led eight years later to Oranges From Spain, a collection of 14 stories portraying youthful rites of passage — most, but not all, firmly set amid Northern Ire-

land's social unrest and family crisis.

In the Northern Ireland of 1992, a political initiative between Catholic and Protestant leaders grinds on behind closed doors, warring paramilitaries remain deeply rooted in districts of chronic unemployment, and the violence has claimed more than 50 lives this year alone.

Mr. Park, says he's optimistic that most people want peace and reconciliation, even if that means they must compromise.

He insists his writing — though focused on the most destructive features of his divided society — leaves room for such hopes.

"The impulse that carried the book was that there is healing. What is the alternative? The abyss," he said. "To look at Northern Ireland and think there is no future, no healing ever going to come — that is not something I could deal with."

## Bolshoi learns to dance on the back of the dollar

By Kevin Morrison  
Reuters

SYDNEY — Russia's famous Bolshoi Ballet is quickly learning how to dance to the tune of the box office cash register in the wake of the breakup of the Soviet Union. The world-renowned ballet company, on a sell-out tour of Australia's six state capitals, is waiting in trepidation for almost certain funding cuts by the Russian government.

Despite a personal guarantee by Russian President Boris Yeltsin last May that money would always be found to keep the Bolshoi going, those involved with the company doubt that it will be enough.

"Everybody knows, the Bolshoi used to have very high subsidies and was always maintained by the government, but now it is a little bit different," Bolshoi Ballet Administrator Mikhail Ermolovich told Reuters.

"The Bolshoi Theatre will always be the Bolshoi Theatre, but its survival is not possible now without commercialism," he added through an interpreter.

About 50 dancers and backstage staff are in Australia, where fans are paying up to \$50 to see performances featuring leading ballerina Natalia Bessmertnova, 51, wife of the ballet's artistic director of 30 years, Yuri Grigorovich.

The Bolshoi's Australian tour is sandwiched between three and a half months in Britain and nine days in South East Asia en route back to Russia.

"The hardest thing is to strike a balance between commerce and showing art," Ermolovich said. "It is difficult because the art has to stay art, but now it has to be together with commercialisation."

The Moscow-based Bolshoi's annual costs run into millions of dollars to support about 3,000 staff in the ballet and theatre companies, orchestra and workshops.

These costs, plus the upkeep of the Bolshoi Theatre building, are now met by the Russian government. But funds have been cut to other theatres around the country, and the government has indicated that the Bolshoi will have to develop its own source of revenue and eventually become independent, according to Ermolovich.

"We are in a difficult situation, particularly a very difficult financial situation," Mr. Ermolovich said.

Ermolovich said a computer system would be installed in Moscow next year connected to booking agents around the world, giving the Bolshoi more control over ticket sales.

Under the old system seats were allocated to the government and Communist Party members, many tickets finding their way to the black market.

Visitors to Moscow would obtain Bolshoi tickets from hotels or other third parties, leaving few for the ballet company to sell.

A major step towards more independence was taken with the creation of the Bolshoi Foundation earlier this year, designed to look after the welfare of all of the Bolshoi staff, from artists to craftsmen.

The foundation patrons include public associations and Russian commercial banks, Ermolovich said.

Foreigners are allowed to be foundation members. The Bolshoi hopes this will encourage potential Western sponsors to take boxes and advertise in glossy programmes.

The company is also looking at more overseas tours, but promoters find them hard to organise because of the huge cost of hotels, airline tickets for a large touring company and transportation of stage costumes and props.

The Bolshoi has also been talking to marketing groups in various countries, to seek out ways of raising money to help meet its overheads.

"We have contracts (to tour) for the next five years... we have many, many contracts," Ermolovich said.

He sees no problem with ballet members seeking fame and fortune overseas following last year's lifting of travel restrictions on Russian citizens.

"It's better now for individuals if they can go abroad, but so far only about three Bolshoi members have gone overseas indefinitely, to dance with other companies," he said.

"Although it is very difficult at the moment, the art is still alive because the dancers like ballet, they love the tradition of the Bolshoi," Ermolovich added.

## Author savours London, especially 84 Charing Cross Road

By Edith M. Lederer  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Helene Hanff was savouring all her favourite haunts on what she said was her last trip to London. Fortnum and Mason, Buckingham Palace. And, of course, 84 Charing Cross Road.

The clerks in black tails were still ringing up sales at Fortnum's. The inscrutable guards marched across the forecourt of Buckingham Palace on schedule at 11 a.m. she knew the secondhand bookstore, Marks And Co., at 84 Charing Cross Road was now a record shop — but still, she had to go back.

After all, her literary love affair with Britain began when she started writing in 1949 to the musty old shop

which specialised in out-of-print books.

Her best-selling book and movie, 84 Charing Cross Road, chronicling 20 years of correspondence with the store's manager, Frank Doel, has made the address one of the most famous in London.

"I had to drop in at 84 to see how it's doing," she said. Ms. Hanff insisted on going alone to see the circular plaque outside commemorating her book. No photographers to jar the memories, please.

The old Marks And Co. sign which record store owner Howard Woo of San Francisco bought at auction now hangs over rows of compact discs.

The smaller Marks And Co. sign which flapped in the

breeze outside the shop at the corner of Shaftesbury Avenue now hangs in her New York apartment, a present from a fan.

"It's lovely because it's right next to the bookshelves with all the books that came from there — what's left of them. New York heat... has eaten them," she lamented.

But the sprightly 76-year-old, with a wry sense of humour and a zest for life, is definitely not lost in the dusty bookshelves of the past.

She was here promoting a new book, Letter From New York, a compilation of broadcasts she did for the BBC women's hour from 1978-84 about the goings-on in her east side neighbourhood.

And she's contemplating another which has been simmering in her brain for over 20 years.

"If I find a handle on it when I get home, I'll write it. I'm desperate for work," she said.

"You die of boredom if you have no work to do. I don't know how people who are retired stand it — to go down to Florida... and plotz on the sand."

There are definitely no beaches or cozy retirement cottages in Ms. Hanff's future: She's a big-city person who thrives on chaos, eccentricity and crowds.

Put the Philadelphia-born writer in New York or London and she positively bubbles about their wonderful theatres, music, parks, book-

shops — and even the noise and streets filled with foreign chatter.

In Letter From New York, she writes about her dog-loving doorman, the yummy delicatessens and any-excuse street parties, the neighbours who helped her throw a dinner party for 19 people in her 1 1/2-room apartment, and being an "old maid of honour" at the wedding of her friend, Arlene Wolff.

One of her great regrets is that Frank Doel died before she had saved enough money for her first trip to London in 1971. The movie version of 84 Charing Cross Road alluded to a romance between Hanff and the unseen London bookseller but she dismissed this as nonsense.

She still corresponds with Doel's daughter, Sheila Wheeler, and caught up with her at a dinner party. Her closest friends in London, Leo Marks, the son of one of the founders of Marks And Co., and his artist wife, Elena, shared her week-long social whirl.

There was a book-signing at Harrods and a party thrown by her British publisher Andre Deutsch at the Garrick Club, favourite haunt of London's theatre and literary set. She loved it — until someone told her that the club barred women members.

For more than 35 years, she had struggled to survive as a writer before 84 Charing Cross Road transformed her life at age 55.

## French songs become a motley array of many colours

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

PARIS — In order to celebrate the French national feastday, a concert of French songs was organised in Central Park, New York, on July 14, 1991, starring Morry Kanter, the Guinean-Malian of Yéle-Yéle; the Gipsy Kings, authentic Hispano-Camargue romantics; and Cheb Khaled, kind of Algerian Rai. There was not a word of French.

In the last Eurovision Song Contest, France was represented by a sensuous princess from the Tales of the Arabian Nights, Amina, a woman from Tunisia, with her honey-eyed voice and blazing eyes whose record, "Le Dernier Qui A Parle" (the Last to

Have Spoken), went right round the world like a magic carpet.

And Breton folklore, which people thought was anchored to the granite of its megaliths, is starting to swing to oriental airs. Eric Marchand, a local lad, with his handkerchief moustache and virtuoso voice, sings in Breton, accompanied by an Indian tabla and an Arab lute.

A blend of white and black cultures and languages dances to the notes of a world without frontiers. "What a mish-mash melody," sang the late Bobby Lapointe, a word-smith. From Bourges to Bamako, from Haiti to Quebec, from the French

West Indies to Louisiana, passing through Oran in Algeria, La Rochelle and Rennes, not forgetting Lyons or Paris, the world of French songs has been hit by happy continental drift.

In order not to perish in its certainties, it has always succeeded in feeding on various contributions from varied sources and new rhythms. As stated by the ethnologist, Levi-Strauss, it is certainly true that "a culture that does not borrow, comes to a standstill and disappears." Jazz and regional folklore, mazurkas, boleros, fandangos, tangos, ragtime, rumbas, negro music and Russian cabaret

blend together in sleazy bars, shoddy dance-halls and music-halls.

**Mano Negra and "Negresses Vertes"**

In the wave of popular rock, French pop-stars are tuning their guitars to hits adapted from across the Atlantic. Nougare is mad about the bossa nova. Lavilliers surfs on all the rhythms of rock, Latin American, African and Asian music. Rap takes on a French flavour in gloomy suburbs. And Gainsbourg, who as an inspired dilettante, composed to all tempos, has left behind a reggae Marseillaise.

Borrowing from all kinds of music and drawing on its own past, French song thus perpetuates the tradition of catchy tunes which, from Charles Trenet to Vanessa Paradis, offer each generation its melodies to hum and to dance to.

The influence of immigration is also bound to be present on a scene with cross-cultures. Montand was of Italian origin, Gainsbourg Russian, Dalid Italian-Egyptian, Aznavour comes from Armenia, Kosma from Hungary and Mouloudji's father was Kabyle. "We are like the France football team. And who scores the goals?"

The immigrants Cantona and Simba. And the trainer is Platini!", seriously joke the "Negresses Vertes", an alternative rock group.

It is a sign of the times that the elders forgot their origins and put their talents and voices at the service of the French language, but the new groups and singers enrich the heritage with their freedom and with the memory of their roots, cheerfully blending genres and idioms. The Mano Negra group moved from French to Arabic or Spanish and lifted the taboo by tampering English. That is where French song stands today — L'Actualité en France.



# World's first contraceptive vaccine gets green light

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — An Indian researcher has unveiled a contraceptive vaccine which scientists say could revolutionise birth control techniques in both the developed and the developing world. Prof. Gurseran Talwar, director of New Delhi's Institute of Immunology and a world expert in the field of vaccines, claims his discovery could enable women to prevent unwanted pregnancies through a simple inoculation, administered just once every six months.

Prof. Talwar, who has been working on his vaccine for more than ten years, revealed details at the International Congress of Reproductive Immunology, held recently in Rome. The new contraceptive's greatest strength is that it mobilises the body's own immune system to reject pregnancy, he says. As a result, women who use it can be sure they are not interfering artificially with their body's normal functions. There is therefore virtually no risk of side effects, almost no fuss and no danger of what in the research business is known as user failure, claims Prof. Talwar. "You may forget to take the (contraceptive) pill or use a condom, or you may not have one," said the Indian researcher in an interview. "With this vaccine, mistakes cannot happen."

Clinical trials carried out in India have shown the vaccine to have a high success rate, better than that of the contraceptive pill or the condom. The vaccine is likely to be made widely available in India before year's end. After that, it will be up to each individual country's health governing body to decide if and when to authorise its use.

Scientists gathered from all over the world for the Rome immunology conference were enthusiastic about the new vaccine. "I view this develop-

ment very favourably," said Prof. Franco Dondoro, chief of reproductive immunology at the University of Sapienza in Rome, who chaired the conference. "Given the problem of over-population in the developing world, the possibility of simply using antibodies to prevent pregnancies instead of something like the pill is very exciting indeed. The pill has its uses, but in some Third World countries it is not very effective as it must be taken every day. The beauty of this vaccine is that it is effective for six months at a time. It appears to have no side effects and is fully reversible. From a scientific viewpoint, it is extremely valid."

Prof. Talwar's vaccine is administered in the form of a simple intramuscular injection, usually in the shoulder. Initially, three inoculations, given at intervals of one month, are needed. After that, top-up injections must be given every six months to ensure immunity from pregnancy. If a woman decides she wants to have a child, a six-month lapse from her last inoculation will return her body to a normal state of fertility.

The contraceptive works on the principle of any vaccine, says Prof. Talwar. The injections stimulate the female body to produce its own anti-bodies to prevent a fertilised egg from taking hold in the uterus. The vaccine is based on HEG, otherwise known as the pregnancy hormone. By injecting HEG into the bloodstream, other anti-bodies are mustered to neutralise it. "HEG is the hormone used by the body for establishing a pregnancy," said Prof. Talwar. "When a woman has a pregnancy test, it is HEG they are looking for in the urine. It is important for the establishment of the embryo. My vaccine generates anti-bodies which work against the HEG

hormone. If these anti-bodies are circulating in the blood, the HEG hormone is deactivated, so when the fertilised egg tries to embed itself in the uterus it doesn't work."

Prof. Talwar, who has been honoured by the French government with the "Legion d'Honneur" for his work with immunology, has spent more than a decade of his long career in trying to find a practical birth control vaccine which could provide an answer to his country's dramatic overcrowding problem. "I was among the first to launch a vaccine that takes the idea of using the body's own internal defense system to control an internal process," he said. "I have been working on this for some years now."

In India, a baby is born every 1.25 seconds. "Every three years, the population grows by the size of that of Italy or Britain," said the Indian researcher. "Over-population is our most dramatic problem. We desperately need to find a birth control system that was not only safe and reversible, but one which was also economic and easy to administer." The birth control vaccine is expected to be made available in other developing countries before long. The world's population, currently at 5.5 billion, is predicted to rise to 6 billion by 1998, to 6.5 billion by 2000 and to have more than doubled to 11.2 billion by the year 2100. "The vast majority of births are expected to take place in the developing world, adding to an already desperate spiral of hunger and poverty, according to United Nations officials who have published the figures."

The birth control pill and the Inter-Uterine Device (IUD), the two contraceptive methods most widely used in the industrialised world, have had little success in the developing nations. Both

methods require a woman to have access to regular medical checks if they are to be used safely. In areas where health services are lacking or stretched to capacity, this can pose a major problem. For the pill to be used effectively, women have to be educated to take it every day.

But the birth control vaccine could also have wide appeal for women in developed countries, say scientists. At a time when more and more women are expressing concern about the wisdom of artificially interfering with their body mechanisms, the more natural, less intrusive vaccine method could prove an attractive alternative. "One of the advantages is that the woman keeps her normal physiology," said Prof. Talwar. "She ovulates normally. In the case of the pill, ovulation is blocked and her normal hormones, produced internally, are replaced by synthetic hormones. In the case of my vaccine, normal ovulation is maintained. You are only interfering with the process of conception. Intervention is at the pre-implantation level."

Prof. Talwar is a familiar figure in immunology circles. His research into a leprosy vaccine is at an advanced stage and will soon be given a commercial license for use in India, which has the world's largest number of lepers, with between 3 and 4 million new cases diagnosed each year. "This vaccine is very helpful in the cure of leprosy," said the professor. "You can give it to patients suffering from multi-cellular leprosy — the worst form — and it expedites their recovery and also upgrades their immunity."

**Male contraceptive vaccine**

The Indian researcher is also working on a male contraceptive vaccine. A version

for male animals produced by Prof. Talwar is already on the market in India. "It can be used for any species — a bull or a dog or a buck," said Prof. Talwar. "It renders him sterile. His semen becomes anti-spermatozoic, but without any loss of libido or drop in hormone levels. I'm now working on a human analogy, so the women of the world can expect a male contraceptive vaccine before too long."

Researchers at the World Health Organisation (WHO) are also close to having a birth control vaccine ready, they say, though this will be for women only. The vaccine will work on much the same principle as that of the Indian researcher, say WHO officials, but it will be administered by an implant under the skin instead of by injection. Clinical trials are likely to start in six months in Brazil and in some European countries, say WHO researchers.

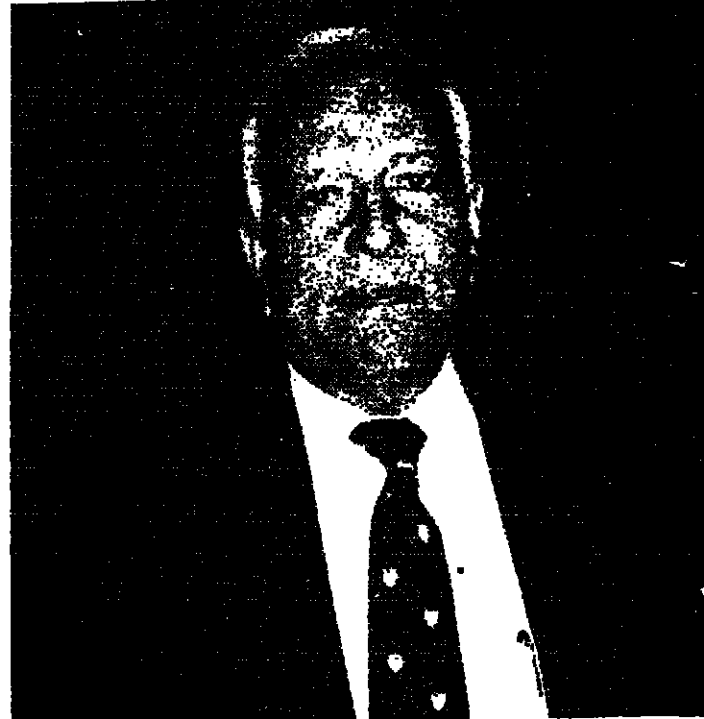
Scientists express excitement at the new developments made in the study of birth control vaccines. But the Roman Catholic Church has spoken out strongly against them, accusing their inventors of using contraception for "colonial" purposes, aiming to control Third World populations so that the wealthier nations will not feel threatened. Monsignor Sgreccia, director of Bio-Ethics at Rome's Catholic University, said both Prof. Talwar's and the WHO vaccines were abortive rather than contraceptive techniques since both entailed preventing the development of an egg that had already been fertilised. "The vaccines stop a newly formed human being from developing," he said. "It is to all effects abortion."

Such criticism is likely to have widespread implications in some parts of the develop-

ing world, particularly in Roman Catholic Central and South America, say scientists. "There is a problem with this type of vaccine — there is no doubt about that — because it comes into effect after fertilisation," said Prof. Dondoro. "One bio-ethical school of thought says that after fertilisation the egg already has a biological identity. Another school of thought says that unless an egg is embedded in the uterus, it is just a cell, not a human being. We have to come to some sort of agreement on a definition of when life really begins."

To head off objections such as those posed by the Roman Catholic Church, researchers in the U.S. are working on another technique, which blocks the reproductive process before the egg is fertilised. This vaccine will work by activating antibodies around the egg, blocking the receptors which usually attract the male sperm and allow fertilisation to take place. "It works by stimulating a kind of immunological condom which wraps itself around the egg, so that the sperm can't take hold and fertilise it," said Prof. Dondoro. "At the moment it is still at the experimental phase, being tested on monkeys and dogs, but it shouldn't be too long before it's ready for humans. This technique should be free of any of the moral objections posed by the other vaccines."

Scientists say immunology research is producing other important spinoffs. At Rome's University of La Sapienza, researchers are studying the body's immune system to find answers to a very different problem, but one which they say is related — infertility. The Italian team, which is leading re-



Prof. Gurseran Talwar

search in this field, has found that one out of every ten cases of female infertility or male sterility is caused by the body's own immune system.

In certain circumstances — when a person is suffering from an infection or from great stress, for example — the human organism produces anti-bodies to prevent pregnancy from taking place. "It's a curious fact that a function as important as reproduction can be stopped because the sperm or the egg is attacked by its own organism, but it's quite a common occurrence," said Dr. Andrea Lenzi, a chief researcher on the Rome team and assistant to Prof. Dondoro. "In the case of the male, the sperm produces anti-bodies which block the effects of the sperm itself, while in the case of the female, the body produces anti-bodies which block the sperm as it arrives in the cervical canal."

The Italian researchers have succeeded in developing a technique to neutralise the destructive anti-bodies, giving fresh hope to some childless couples. "This is very new and very exciting," said Dr.

Lenzi. We are the first to do this. It means we have a cure for a large number of cases of sterility."

In other immunology related research, two British scientists have isolated the gene that stops the female body from rejecting the fetus, which is, to all effects, a foreign organism. This development, outlined at the Rome conference, could prove important in helping doctors eliminate the rejection of organs in transplant operations, one of the major causes of failure. It could also help deepen the medical world's understanding of spontaneous abortion in women and even cancer, say scientists.

"It may be possible to recreate the tolerance that women have in accepting the fetus and reproduce it for transplant operations," said Dr. Lenzi. "It could also help us understand the formation of cancerous tumours and how to control them. After all, if you think about it, it is a similar concept. The fetus is a foreign body which invades the uterus" — World News Link.

## Mystery surrounds the noises that torture the 'hummers'

By Gero von Randow

SOME people in some rooms in some places hear a low humming noise. The nerve-racking sound is dominated by one tone. Sufferers often don't like talking about their problem in case others think they are off their heads. They prefer to suffer in silence and avoid the places where it hums — or move.

In Britain, the undaunted among the sufferers have founded a special group, the Low Frequency Noise Sufferers' Association. Following a ten-year struggle, they have managed to persuade the British Environment Ministry to commission researchers to look into the problem.

According to the Ministry, 500 new cases are registered every year. The British low-frequency noise victims have various theories about the sources of their torment, ranging from rumbling gas pipes to irritations of hearing caused by the radar emissions of microwave ovens or even by secret army radiation experiments. In the press, which likes to focus on their plight, they are known as the hummers, and the impression given is that whatever hums is inside them. In some cases, this may even be true.

The medical world calls a ringing, hissing, or booming sensation in one or both ears tinnitus, but this has no external cause. Sometimes it indicates a hearing disease which produces a low-frequency noise. The symptom, however, is not connected with any particular location, as opposed to the eerie and undesired low-frequency noise the hummers describe.

People who hear the hum in one place but not in another need by no means regard themselves as crazy. They may in fact be simply listening to "low-frequency parts of industrial noise amplified by resonance," as engineers from the Regional Office for Pollution Protec-

tion (LIS) of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia label the acoustic phenomenon they have been analysing and successfully combating for ten years.

The Essen-based authority sends out its experts on behalf of the factory safety and health control offices. The engineers install microphones in the homes of uncomplaining, who are asked to keep a record of the noises they hear. In some cases, what has been heard and what has been measured do not match, which means that the person concerned is advised to consult an ear specialist.

However, in other cases (33 last year in North Rhine-Westphalia alone) the equipment records a clear humming at a frequency range of between 20 and 100 hertz (hz) in precisely those places and at those times where and when the people there hear the noise. And some people hear these frequencies much clearer than others.

Normally, we perceive acoustic vibrations as sounds at levels higher than 20 hz, just as we perceive sequences in the cinema of 16 images per second (corresponding to 16hz) as continuous movement.

How intensively we perceive the sound not only depends on the sound pressure (measured in db); the purer and more unexpected the sound, the clearer we notice it in our brains. Low pure sounds are predestined to upset the nerves as an unnatural sound signal.

Regardless of whether noises reproduce themselves through the air or, as "body sound," vibrate through floors and walls, the higher frequencies are easier to filter out than the lower ones. That's how the foghorn works. This is why the music from the house nextdoor often sounds like a pulsating drumming.

Some unfortunate people live in what could be called

an organ pipe. Constant low tones can cause the air in closed rooms or their walls to vibrate, which can heighten the effect. The echo can be reflected from the walls in such a way that the waves overlap and form "wave nodes" and "wave loops" in certain parts of the room.

The distance between the walls has to have a certain mathematical ratio to the wavelength before the noise is created. The sound pressure is particularly great in the wave loops, the sections which sound really eerie.

German "noise-busters" have already detected several humming sources: transformers, gas-powered engines in combined heating and power stations, ventilators, boilers, and mills which operate slowly. In each case, the LIS was able to make suggestion on how to dampen the bass tones without excessive investment.

In many cases, all that had to be changed were the individual sizes, the rotational frequencies of engines or the length of piping and shafts. Diesel engines were capped, bulk material sieves in foundries were given better suspension.

Before such protective me-

asures are taken, however, proof of noise pollution must be provided. This was often impossible when using the previous DIN-standard measurement and calculation techniques, since they are not constructed to tackle the special case of resonant low-tone humming.

As a rule, sounds transmitted through the air are deliberately not measured inside rooms, but outside of the window, at a distance of fifty centimetres. This generally makes sense, since disturbing noise should be measured independent of the insulating qualities of the buildings concerned. Official regulations fail to mention, however, that building can also act as a filter and amplifier of low tones.

The LIS does measure indoor areas; in the meantime, its methods have also been adopted by other Land offices and have been included in drafts for new DIN standards. Careful examination has led to the conclusion that if you hear something humming it need not be inside your own head. Which makes it easier to talk about the problem and try to get help — Die Zeit.

## SOLUTIONS

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Andrea Del Sarto.
2. Cubism.
3. A circular window filled with tracery.
4. Whistler.
5. To indicate that they were alive when they painting was executed.
6. Painting of inanimate objects or groups of objects.
7. The artist's real name was Jacopo Robusti (Italian). He was called Tintoretto — little dyer — from his father's trade.

### PUZZLES

1. The clock struck first.
2. Short.
3. Water.
4. Donkeys, monkeys and turkeys.
5. Your tongue.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By Joel Davajan

- ACROSS
- 1 My line?
  - 2 Anecdotes
  - 3 Embassy worker
  - 4 Muddy ship
  - 5 Mysterious
  - 6 Alone
  - 7 Chap
  - 8 So Am range
  - 9 Nice sleep?
  - 10 Swimmers
  - 11 Limerick?
  - 12 Adhesive friction
  - 13 Car support
  - 14 Sergeant's
  - 15 Command
  - 16 Civil wrong
  - 17 RSI and EIA
  - 18 Euc.
  - 19 Compute
  - 20 Rant bodice
  - 21 Impudence

- DOWN
- 1 Woven fabric
  - 2 German address
  - 3 Zone
  - 4 Pigment
  - 5 Zones of action
  - 6 Neckwear
  - 7 Name word
  - 8 TV alien
  - 9 Convertible
  - 10 Feature
  - 11 France
  - 12 Rhapsody
  - 13 Actress Adams
  - 14 Legal matter
  - 15 Social classes
  - 16 Crime in
  - 17 Thought
  - 18 Recent events
  - 19 Existence
  - 20 Enigma

### Diagramless 10 x 10, By James Barrick

- ACROSS
- 1 Folded
  - 2 Missing one
  - 3 Teasdale
  - 4 Trustworthiness
  - 5 Football player
  - 6 Bullet's diameter
  - 7 Piles for walking
  - 8 till
  - 9 Striker's brother
  - 10 Son of Isaac
  - 11 Live patient
  - 12 teacher

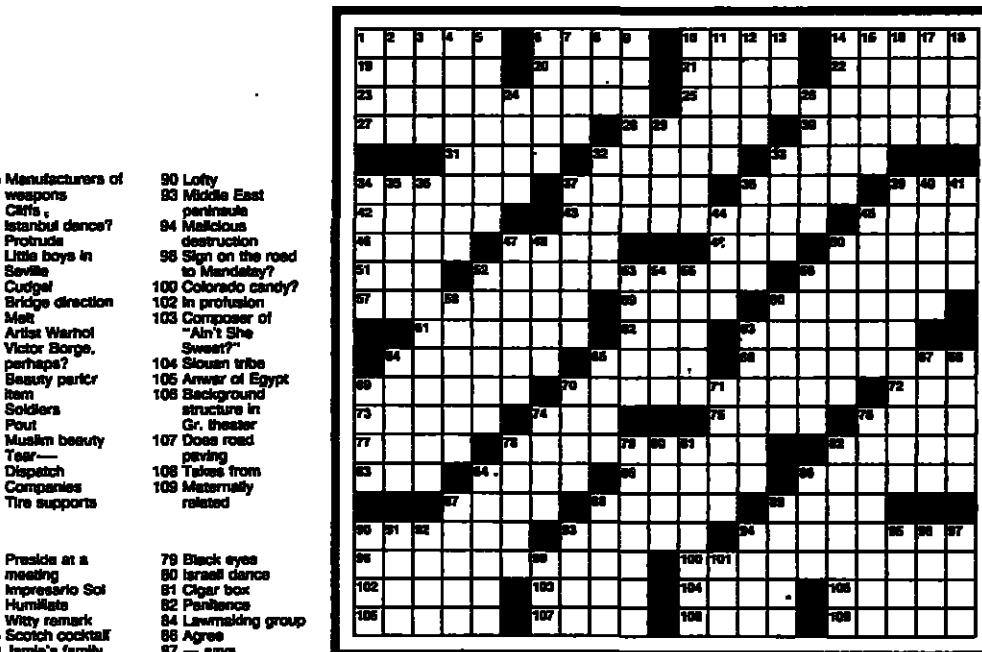
- DOWN
- 1 Undeformed
  - 2 Candid
  - 3 Actress
  - 4 Tuesday
  - 5 — Lania
  - 6 Football
  - 7 Discounted
  - 8 Out of meat
  - 9 Dined
  - 10 Busy
  - 11 Johnson

- 38 300
- 42 Unique persons
  - 43 Edinburgh child's
  - 44 gem?
  - 45 Partisan of
  - 46 Munch
  - 47 Monster
  - 48 Spring
  - 49 Owing to
  - 50 Kin of baccara
  - 51 Cruise
  - 52 Best from Basel?
  - 53 English hood
  - 54 Blue prison
  - 55 Naves
  - 56 Compels
  - 57 Pinner's ropes
  - 58 Coach Paragon
  - 59 Spanish dances
  - 60 Monastery heads
  - 61 Life stories, for short

- 26 Sovers
  - 29 Holbrook and
  - 30 Seton
  - 31 Boutiques
  - 32 Zorro's action
  - 33 Methyl bar
  - 34 Munch gangs?
  - 35 Rura art
  - 36 Formal button
  - 37 Taiwan trait?
  - 38 Grand goddess
  - 39 Thron
  - 40 Pines
  - 41 Penicillin
  - 42 Well
  - 43 Mural options
  - 44 Cerebral acts
  - 45 Faked to
  - 46 Existence
  - 47 Watercraft

- 33 Motive
- 41 Comfortable and
  - 42 Confidant
  - 43 Gov. org.
  - 44 Pore and leane
  - 45 — miter
  - 46 Molen rock from
  - 47 Iceland
  - 48 Stormed
  - 49 Abound

- 28 Poem division
- 29 Festive
  - 30 Worked on the
  - 31 Twiddle
  - 32 Jet
  - 33 Cargo ship
  - 40 Status, as a price
  - 42 Sorcery
  - 43 Prattle
  - 44 "Orlando" villain
  - 45 Movie reviewer

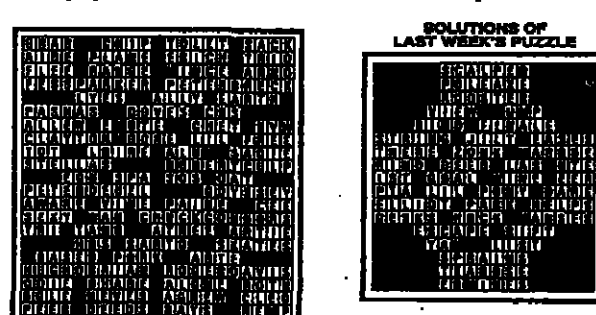


### Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Expert dance instructor, who taught fox trot and waltz, was angry with a few lady pupils.
2. New entraining pool owner throws some big grand opening affair for the whole neighborhood.
3. They demanded she fork over her black silk handbag, but octagonarian gave him the back of her head.
4. What president do you suppose had large laundry loads? Answer: "Washing-ton."

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BURNS TURNS ROONEYLAD CMZ PS RA  
BUS TYRAD EMBU NURGFJ OLYCFZ  
YSNRFKS BUMB ZRGEU CGNB PS  
NTSYKESJ. —By Eugene T. Malenka
2. FBIIL BTAFAEZ KUTLOT JUTLOG GUIM  
BIG YBTG AU LOOK YEF KEMFAN ZYEF BIG  
FANCEFY. —By Lois H. Jones
3. JIBE ADBUBIDTA PRYDAP PRYD MEA ZU  
POD MOBYD POBP JZP BMBE. —By Barbara J. Haas
4. OXA NFBO FWCOCMO, AECHEALCOJ  
OXTMBB PQOAM GPMOCTM CM AECGO FTO  
PQ QXNJCNAMOCV OLKX. —By Gordon Miller





## Arafat calls for legislative elections

(Continued from page 1)

statehood. "The PLO-backed negotiating team has gone beyond its mandate by accepting to negotiate autonomy and self-rule with the Israelis," said a high-ranking

member of the second largest PLO group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash. "The negotiators were mandated by the PNC to discuss statehood with Israel. But that is not what they are discussing," added the PFLP official, who preferred

anonymity.

Fearing that Syria may strike a separate peace with Israel without the Palestinians reaching any agreement with the Jewish state, the mainstream PLO leadership is trying to reunify ranks to strengthen the Palestinian position. Most of the 10 headline

groups which have called for an end to Palestinian participation in the peace talks are based in Damascus.

While Syria has not said that it would strike a separate deal with the Israelis, Palestinian officials have voiced concern, both publicly and privately, about Israel's overtures to Syria.

Mr. Arafat is expected to hold talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian dissident leaders in Damascus this weekend.

"Mr. Arafat is shuttling between the Arab capitals involved in the peace process to arrive at a consolidated Arab position vis-à-vis Israel until it withdraws from

all the Arab lands it occupied in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem," said a senior aide to the PLO chairman.

King Hussein held talks with Mr. Arafat shortly after the PLO chairman's arrival here Tuesday. The PLO leader also underwent a routine medical check-up late Tuesday, according to reports.

## Bugged telephone calls introduced

(Continued from page 1)

much later. "I pondered over what I should do over the next three or four days before contacting the prosecutor" of the State Security Court on Oct. 3, four days after the trial started, he said.

Subsequently, security forces, led by Maj. Hijazi, confiscated the cache; documents and two photographs found in the lot were cited by the prosecutor two days later as indicating that Al Nafeer had planned to attack the American, British and French embassies in Amman.

Under cross-examination by Mr. Shbeilat's lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, Mr. Aqil said he knew that Mr. Ayoubi was a prisoner in Israeli jails and that he was tortured. He said he did not have any details.

In response to a question from Mr. Kayed, Mr. Aqil said that he "never heard them (the defendants) calling for toppling the regime or planning sabotage activity inside Jordan."

The witness also said, in reply to a question from one of the three judges, that he saw Sheikh Qarash once at the shop.

Wednesday's court hearing witnessed several tense moments. The Dmour-Hijazi exchange was the last of several flare-ups during the two-and-a-half-hour session.

Mr. Bakr was reprimanded by Judge Faouri for saying that he was not wearing "a military uniform" to "terrify" a witness as the court suggested.

Mr. Bakr apologized to the court after Judge Faouri, who was visibly upset by the reference to "military uniform"—which he said was "an honour"—demanded a formal apology.

Another exchange took place between Lt. Col. Faouri and Qarash lawyer Ahmad Abu Arkoub when the latter raised his hand to register his objections to a witness' testimony. "Sit down," said the judge in the first such order to a lawyer during the trial, which began Sept. 29.

But Mr. Abu Arkoub stood up and insisted that it was his "right as a lawyer to raise his hand without being told to sit down."

The prosecution's bid to introduce 13 audio-cassette tapes to support the charges of undermining Jordanian-Israeli relations and slandering members of Parliament was the main bone of contention in most of Wednesday's arguments.

The defence vehemently argued that the very act of wiretapping violated the constitutional rights of the defendants and cited precedents in local and international courts of such evidence being rejected in court.

One of Mr. Shbeilat's lawyers, Zahair Abu Ragheb, produced several legal cross-references and quoted experts as well as international human rights charters that do not permit wiretapping or the use of such evidence in court. He also said that "Jordan does not have experts who are capable of analysing voices."

While Mr. Dmour described the tapping of telephones as "illegal," Maj. Hijazi said that no text in the legislation prohibited the introduction of such evidence in court. He also cited Syrian legislation which allows interception of mail as well as telephone tapping and added that the order to bug the phones of Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash was issued by a "specialised prosecutor."

The wiretapping drew controversy from the very outset of the trial last week, with defence lawyers arguing that the monitoring was ordered by an officer of the General Intelligence Department (GID) instead of a prosecutor or court. The prosecution countered that the concerned

GID officer was also a State Security Court prosecutor.

After hearing both sides Wednesday, Judge Faouri ruled that the court would decide for itself the legality of the evidence and whether it was "convincing and strong enough to be accepted."

The prosecution put Khaled Maqadadi, a sound technician at Radio Jordan, on the witness stand to testify that the voices in the tapes were that of Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash.

Mr. Maqadadi said 11 of the tapes contained telephone conversations of the accused deputies between themselves as well as with others. The other two tapes contained lectures given by Mr. Shbeilat in Amman, he said.

He said he had compared the voices and their various pitches with those available from the recorded speeches in Parliament by Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash.

In direct testimony and cross-examination, the witness said that upon the request of the prosecution, channelled through the director-general of Jordan Radio and Television, Radi Alkhas, he had undertaken the job of analysing the voices with the help of equipment at the broadcasting station, which he described as "very accurate."

He added that his job was only technical and that he paid no attention to the substance of the conversations. Dr. Alkhas was not aware of any details or the precise nature of work he undertook for the prosecutor, he added.

Mr. Maqadadi, who testified that he had undergone several years of specialised training abroad as well as in Jordan, said that he believed there was "no doubt whatsoever" that the tapes contained the voices of the two accused deputies in conversations with unidentified people.

Mr. Bakr's 25-minute cross-examination of Mr. Maqadadi was the longest yet in the trial. He fired off question after question, clearly designed to cast doubt on the witness' credentials as an expert in analysing voices (It was during his questioning of the witness that Judge Faouri commented that he was "terrifying" the witness and Mr. Bakr drew reprimand by replying, "Am I wearing a military uniform?")

Mr. Maqadadi said that one of the tapes contained a conversation between Sheikh Qarash and a "man with an Iraqi accent" who identified himself as Ahmad Chalabi—the former chairman of Petra Bank who is now an Iraqi opposition figure based in London. Mr. Chalabi was tried in absentia and found guilty of massive bank fraud and sentenced to 22 years in prison in Jordan early this year.

Another conversation involved a three-way call among the two deputies and another man with an Iraqi accent, Mr. Maqadadi said, adding that the discussions centred on the Iran-Iraq war. The witness did not go into details of any of the calls.

The contents of these tapes are believed to be the prosecution's basis for charging the two deputies with attempts to undermine Jordanian-Israeli relations as well as for indicting Mr. Shbeilat for slandering members of Parliament.

A photograph with writing on its back is cited by the prosecution as slander against His Majesty the King.

## Kuwaiti government resigns

(Continued from page 1)

the authorities' conduct after Iraq's August 1990 invasion.

Sheikh Saad said on television last week he was not against an investigation as the government had nothing to hide.

Mr. Nibari said the parliament's policies would depend in part on the shape of the new cabinet. "I hope the cabinet's views will reflect those of the elected parliament," he said.

Mr. Nibari and Mr. Baqr said the parliament must hold the government accountable for its foreign investment decisions.

Bad debt problems have hit Grupo Torras, a Spanish industrial holding company owned by the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO). Economists estimated the net worth of KIO's Spanish investments at \$7 billion before it ran into trouble.

Kuwait is also believed to have liquidated up to 60 per cent of its pre-war foreign portfolio of some \$100 billion to pay for the cost of the war with Iraq and later reconstruction.

The country must now use part of its oil and investment income to service its debts, economists say.

The restoration of democracy in Kuwait, and the course of the relationship between parliament and the royal family, also has implications beyond Kuwait's borders.

Last year's Gulf war threw the spotlight on the lack of democracy and personal freedoms in the monarchies and sheikdoms of the oil-rich region.

## El Al plane

(Continued from page 1)

and the crash.

"Whether the plane's right inside engine also fell off has not yet been determined," Transportation Minister Hanja Maj-Weggen said in a letter to parliament, providing a "still very incomplete" accounting of what happened to Flight 1862.

Hans Scholten, spokesman for the Dutch Aviation Authority, said the flight recorder that contains vital information on the performance of the plane's mechanical and electronic equipment "is badly damaged."

"We are pessimistic that it will yield useful information," he said.

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# NBA owners trading away top players

By the Associated Press

NBA general managers, seemingly handcuffed by salary cap constraints a year ago, are trading top players with amazing frequency this offseason.

Charles Barkley, Jeff Hornacek, Rolando Blackman, Chuck Person, Pooh Richardson, Charles Smith, Rodney McCray, Jay Humphries and Dale Ellis are among the top players traded since the 1991-92 season ended three months ago.

"For the most part, the players getting traded aren't role players," Seattle Supersonics president Bob Whitsitt said Wednesday. "These are starters. Cap management is what it's all about when the desire is present to make a trade."

Whitsitt said the teams dealing with each other often come in two categories — those trying to make the jump from playoff team to championship team and those trying to rebuild under a new coach or management.

"The Orlando Magic, in the second category, are stockpiling draft picks, while the New York Knicks, in the first category, have traded two first-rounders, a second-round pick and Mark Jackson for veterans like Blackman, Tony Campbell, Smith and Doc Rivers."

"Teams getting closer to championship level historically have used trading draft picks to complete the cycle," Whitsitt said. "At the other end of the spectrum, you're trying to rebuild, moving veterans that won't help you in the future and getting draft picks."

"Only one team can win a championship," Whitsitt said. "Even if Blackman doesn't work out the way the Knicks hope, it doesn't mean it was a bad move

at the time. Why shouldn't they go for it?"

Even with all the multi-team, multi-player deals, the biggest offseason blockbuster still looms.

The Houston Rockets and Hakeem Olajuwon both are tight-lipped about whether they want to break up, but they haven't said they want to make up, either.

The Supersonics and Miami Heat, who already acquired John Salley, are two of the teams most prominently mentioned in Olajuwon trade scenarios.

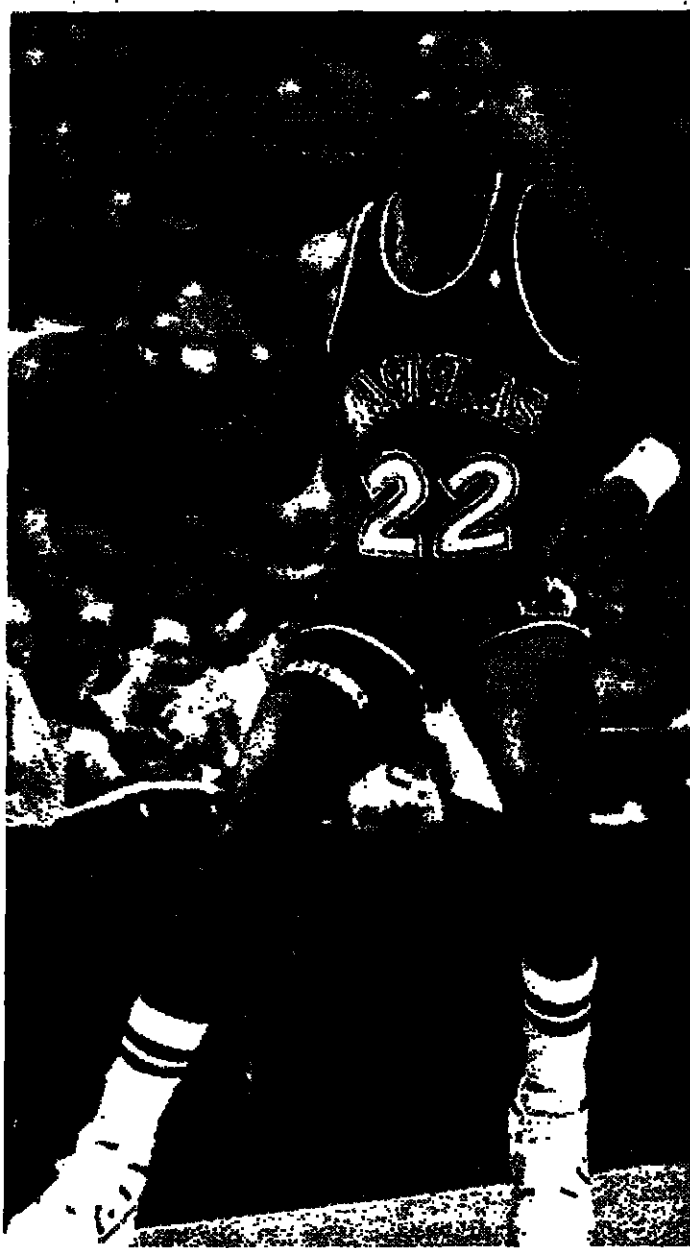
"Marque guys don't move too often," Whitsitt said, "but Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson were traded, so anyone can be traded."

One danger for a team making as many changes as the Knicks, who could have as many as four new starters, is that they won't have time to adjust to each other's games.

"Any time you add a new player it takes time for them to learn together," Knicks vice president Ernie Grunfeld said.

Sacramento Kings general manager Jerry Reynolds said the small number of offseason trades last year may have led to the heavy-duty dealing this summer. Reynolds also indicated that some teams are more willing to deal for lower first-round picks rather than high picks that are risky and expensive.

"There's a danger that if you have a high pick for three or four straight years, the entire salary cap can be taken up by those players," Reynolds said. "It used to be if you made a bad pick early in the draft, it hurt you on the court. Now it can ruin you on the court and cap-wise at the same time."



Rolando Blackman

## Serbia's president meets Bobby Fischer

BELGRADE (AP) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic met former world chess champion Bobby Fischer Tuesday and declared his current rematch with Boris Spassky "the greatest chess event in 20 years." The \$5 million match is being played despite U.N. sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, the only two republics left in Yugoslavia, for provoking civil war in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Fischer, an American, has been warned by the U.S. government that he faces possible heavy fines and imprisonment for violating the economic embargo if he returns to the United States. "This is undoubtedly the greatest chess event in 20 years, since the two first played for the world title," the Tanjug news agency quoted Milosevic as saying. "The match is even more important because it is played while Yugoslavia is under unjustified blockade," he said. "That, in its best way, proves that chess and sports cannot be limited by politics."

## Agassi, Lendl win in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — The curtain rose on the Andre Agassi show in Sydney Wednesday and everyone loved it — everyone except his opponent that is.

The Las Vegas showman and Wimbledon champion dispatched countryman Jim Grabb in his opening match of the \$1.1 million Australian Indoor Tennis Championship with a display of lightning returns, fluid groundstrokes and predatory prowling of the net to win the match 6-4, 6-2.

But there was something the crowd missed — hidden behind the mask.

A grueling schedule has seen the pony-tailed Agassi play the U.S. Open, Davis Cup, and three exhibitions against his idol John

McEnroe, in Seoul, Singapore and Melbourne, in the past three weeks.

After the match the 22-year-old Agassi admitted he had over-committed himself early in the year and was now paying the price.

"I'm a bit under the weather. I've developed a cold which has been kinda nagging at me for a few days. I'm not specifically feeling well," Agassi said.

Meanwhile, former world-number one Ivan Lendl, dogged by a minor tendon problem, advanced to the third round of the Australian Indoor Championships Wednesday despite a stuttering performance which gave him little pleasure.

## CAR FOR SALE

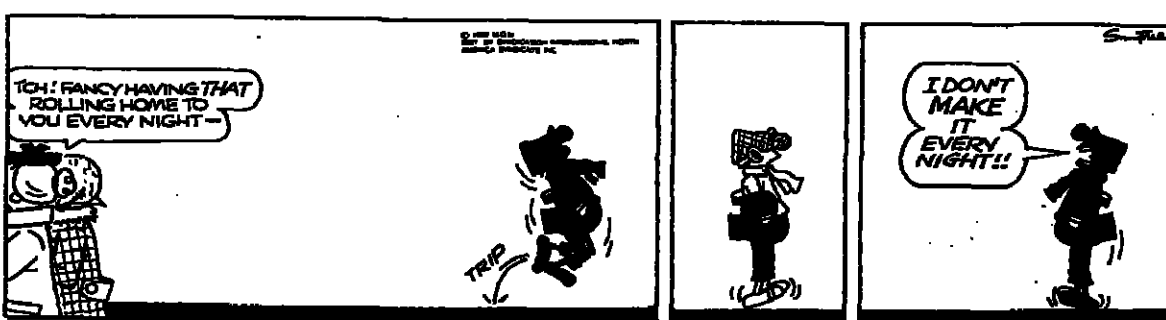
Range Rover 1989, white, manual gear, electric windows, centre lock, in very good condition.

Call the showroom of the Ruman Trading Company - Zarqa Free Zone, tel. 916057, Mr. Kamal

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Al Wihdat plays Al Wasi Friday

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Wihdat Friday play Al Wasi of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai in the second leg of their first round match of the Asian Clubs' Soccer Championship. The match will be transmitted live on TV Friday afternoon Al-Wihdat lost the first leg match 4-0 in Irbid last Friday. They will have to win by a minimum four goal difference to qualify for the second round.

### Maradona dreaming of playing for Argentina

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to successive world cup finals in 1986 and 1990, is dreaming of a return to the national side. "To return to the national squad is my dream. I know if things go well (coach Alfio Basile will call me up)," the 31-year-old Argentine said in answers to readers' questions published in Italian weekly magazine *Guerin Sportivo*. Maradona, who last week began his comeback with Spanish club Sevilla after a 15-month ban from the game for failing a drugs test while with Italian team Napoli, stressed he wanted to win a place on merit. "I want to earn a place in the national squad and the captain's armband. I don't want any presents," he said. The Argentine added it was too early to say whether he would be able to play a part in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

### Matthaeus to return to German national team

DRESDEN (R) — World cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaeus, who missed the European Championship in June because of a knee injury, makes his Germany comeback in a friendly against Mexico on Oct. 14. The 31-year-old midfielder, who only returned to league action with Bayern Munich last month after undergoing surgery, has been named in the 22-man party for the match in Dresden and coach Berti Vogts said Matthaeus would play. Vogts called up Eintracht Frankfurt striker Axel Kruse. Clubmate Ralf Weber and Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Heiko Scholz for the first time for the game marking veteran striker Rudi Voeller's last appearance in a Germany shirt. Voeller recently announced his retirement from international football.

### Borg loses in Toulouse tennis

TOULOUSE (AP) — Bjorn Borg continued his unsuccessful comeback by losing to a 19-year-old French qualifier, Lionel Roux, 6-0, 6-4, Tuesday in the first round of the \$315,000 Toulouse Open tennis tournament. Borg had lost all seven previous first-round matches in ATP tournaments this year without winning a set. He received wild-card invitation to all of them. In his last appearance Borg lost in 43 minutes to another swede, Nicklas Kulti, who was eliminated in the first round here. Roux was the lowest-ranked player he played on the regular circuit since coming back. However the No. 15th ranked Roux won a challenger tournament in Asia earlier in the year. In other matches, Andrei Medvedev, who won at Bordeaux three weeks ago, topped qualifier Thomas Gohlwitzer of Germany, 6-2, 6-7 (11-9), 6-4. Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, upset No. 5 seed Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany, 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (8-6), 7-6 (7-2) and Sweden's Christian Bergstrom beat Jakob Alasek of Switzerland, 7-6, (7-5), 6-2. Also No. 8 seed Omar Camporese of Italy came from behind to eliminate Henri Leconte, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

### Rush equals hunt's Liverpool scoring record

LONDON (R) — Ian Rush equalled Roger Hunt's Liverpool club record of 286 goals when he scored in their English League cup win at Chesterfield Tuesday. Wales striker Rush notched Liverpool's final goal in their 4-1 victory in the second round, second leg match, giving the Premier League team an 8-5 aggregate success over their third division opponents. Rush stabbed the ball home at the second attempt in the 55th minute, 'not one of his most spectacular goals, but it brought him level with the tally of former England World Cup-winning centre forward Hunt. Liverpool manager Graeme Souness paid tribute to Rush by saying: "Ian is the best goal-getter I have ever seen. If he played for England he would have received far more plaudits than he has done." Liverpool, battling to emerge from their worst start to a season for 39 years, had to overturn a 1-0 deficit after Trevor Hebbard struck Chesterfield ahead in the eighth minute. But Liverpool, who trailed 3-0 at one stage of the first leg at Anfield, soon put paid to the home side's ambitions of an upset. Don Hutchison equalised after 19 minutes, strikes by Jamie Redknapp and Mark Walters put Liverpool on top and Rush sealed the win with his landmark goal.

### Pele signs \$200,000 advisory contract

TOKYO (R) — Former soccer idol Pele has signed a contract worth an estimated \$200,000 with a Japanese sports body as an advisor to help their bid to be one of the venues of the 2002 World Cup finals, newspapers reported Tuesday. The reports said the contract required the Brazilian to advise on the planned construction of a stadium in Aomori, north Japan, and to conduct a soccer school there. South Korea, China, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia have also expressed an interest in hosting the finals.

## Mario Andretti named 'driver of the quarter century'

CONCORD, North Carolina (AP) — Mario Andretti, one of the most versatile and successful drivers in motorsports history, was named Tuesday night as the "driver of the quarter century" (1967-1991).

Andretti, 52, was chosen from among 10 finalists in a vote by the 12-member driver of the year panel of motorsports journalists and former drivers of the year. Other finalists, in no particular order, included Richard Petty, A.J. Foyt, Don Garlits, Dale Earnhardt, David Pearson, Darrell Waltrip, Cale Yarborough, Al Unser and Rick Mears. Results of the vote weren't released except to say that Andretti, the 1978 Formula One champion and four-time Indy-car

series champion, was the top vote-getter.

"This is a unique honour and one that will always be very special to me," Andretti said.

Andretti, who remains active in Indy-car racing and has one more year to go on his current contract with Newman-Haas racing, has 99 major sanctioned professional victories in virtually every type of car, including 51 in Indy-cars, 12 in Formula One, nine in sprint cars, seven in Formula 5,000, six in sports car endurance racing, five in USAC dirt cars, three in the International Race of champions series, two in non-championship Formula One events and one apiece in NASCAR, USAC stocks, USAC Midgets and drag racing.

## Cities to host Olympics show solidarity with Sarajevo

The Associated Press

IN A GESTURE of solidarity acknowledging the suffering of war-torn Sarajevo, the eight north American cities chosen to stage the Olympics simultaneously raised the five-ring Olympic flag Tuesday and held somber ceremonies.

The flag-raising took place in Calgary; Alberta; Los Angeles; Lake Placid, Montreal; Squaw Valley, California; St. Louis; Mexico City and Atlanta. "The symbolism of eight cities in North America issuing the same appeal... symbolises our unity for peace," Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley said.

## HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When I was four years old I kissed a snapping turtle. Love has made me nervous ever since!"

### JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DARNB

UFORR

CATHED

LAUTES

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

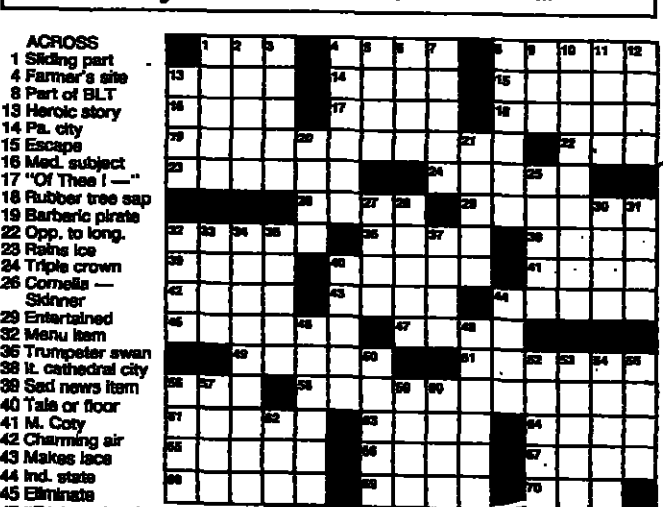
Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORUM ARRAY BARREN GIGOLO

Answer: In marriage, one and one make two OR MORE

## THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berwick



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Sliding part 2. Part of BLT 3. Heroic story 4. PA. city 5. Rubber tree sap 6. Med. subject 7. "Of These I..." 8. Rubber tree sap 9. Barber's pliers 10. Opp. to long 11. Hairy ice 12. Triple crown 13. Cornells 14. Skinner 15. Entertained 16. Menu item 17. Trumpeter swan 18. IC cathedral city 19. Sed news item 20. Tale or floor 21. M. Coxy 22. Charming air 23. Males lace 24. Ind. state 25. Eliminate 26. Body and 27. Tapestry 28. Sore's offspring 29. Prop 30. Blackboard, at home 31. UFO pilot? 32. Opera highlight 33. Blue or White 34. Aton is 35. Dissolve 36. Iran's neighbor 37. Drate 38. Drained of color 39. Plaster 40. Founded: abstr. 41. Following 42. Pouches 43. Lie — of bricks 44. Log 45. Those who regret 46. Try bit 47. Openings for coins 48. Active volcano 49. Think 50. Winter annoyances 51. Rose's love 52. Pirates' activity 53. Playful maternal 54. Approximately 55. Place 56. Came down 57. Fiddish 58. Add current info 59. Overwhelm 60. Lamp spirit 61. Sideways 62. Billiards 63. Afterward 64. Delat —

57. Pair 58. Length times width 60. Brook 62. Always, to Kats

## FOR RENT

### DELUXE SMALL FURNISHED FLAT

Deluxe small furnished flat for rent, suitable for one person (preferred to be a lady), ground floor with small garden and separate entrance. The flat consists of one bedroom, living-dining room, small kitchen and small bath and equipped with modern kitchen equipment, TV available and central heating. Telephone, water supply, electricity are separate.

Location: In a very quiet area in Tla'a Al Ali, between Chen's Chinese Restaurant and Mecca Str. behind Mohtasham Supermarket, near Shoukeh Restaurant

For more information: Call telephone 613027 between (8-10) p.m. daily.



## International Food Fair

Friday, October 9, 1992  
Gate opens at 11 a.m.

Entrance for adults JD 1, children 250 fils  
Dishes of many different nationalities,  
a Grand Raffle with lots of super prizes  
including return air tickets  
plus lots of fun for all with go-karts, pony rides,  
Jordanian army band, children's costume parade,  
and much, much, more!

International Community School, Khaldi  
tel.: 841070

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Neither vulnerable. North deals.  
NORTH  
♠ A Q 10 8 6  
♥ Void  
♦ J 9 8  
♣ A Q 6 3 2  
WEST  
♠ K J 9  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ 10 8 7 4  
♣ Q 7 5 4 2  
EAST  
♠ 7 4 2  
♥ K J 6 3  
♦ K J 6 3  
♣ K 10 8 4  
SOUTH  
♠ 5 3  
♥ A Q 9 5 2  
♦ K 10 3  
♣ J 7 6

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Four of ♠

When you win a trick is often more important than taking it. To illustrate what we mean, consider this hand from the Sunday Times Tournament, one of the premier events on the European bridge circuit.

South's one no trump response was forcing for one round. Thereafter, the auction followed natural

lines to an ambitious contract of three no trump.

The usual lead was a diamond to the ace and a diamond back. Declarer's ten lost to West's queen, and West cleared the diamond suit. Most of the declarers now elected to tackle clubs, leading low to the queen.

Where East won the king of clubs and returned the ten, declarer's jack — veiled the position and declarer as in hand to go after spades as the only real chance for enough tricks. When a finesse of the ten held, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and conceded a club to East. Declarer went up with the ace on the heart return, repeated the spade finesse and collected four spade tricks, three clubs and one in each red suit.

At some tables the queen of clubs was allowed to hold! Since declarer could not afford to let West gain the lead, the ace of clubs was cashed. West's show-out was the death knell, for when declarer continued with a club East defended accurately by taking both club winners, then shifting to a spade. Declarer, limited to three club tricks, two spades and a diamond, ended up going down three tricks!



## Financial Markets

in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

## U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 6.10.1992	Tokyo Close Date 7.10.1992
Sterling Pound	1.7135	1.7188
Deutsche Mark	1.4280	1.4317
Swiss Franc	1.2485	1.2498
French Franc	4.8450	4.8640
Japanese Yen	119.75	119.78
European Currency Unit	1.3645	1.3540

\* USD Per STG

\*\* European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	2.96	3.12	3.05	3.18
Sterling Pound	9.12	8.68	8.62	8.31
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.81	8.50	8.18
Swiss Franc	6.31	6.31	6.31	6.12
French Franc	13.25	12.50	11.00	10.37
Japanese Yen	4.09	3.84	3.71	3.62
European Currency Unit	12.50	12.12	11.25	10.48

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	350.00	6.65	Silver	3.75	0.080

\* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6750	0.6770
Sterling Pound	1.1585	1.1603
Deutsche Mark	0.4710	0.4734
Swiss Franc	0.5395	0.5422
French Franc	0.1394	0.1401
Japanese Yen	0.5629	0.5657
Dutch Guilder	0.4184	0.4205
Swedish Krona	0.1243	0.1249
Italian Lira	0.0513	0.0516
Belgian Franc	0.02250	0.02301

\* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharati Dinar	1.7600	1.7800
Lebanese Lira	0.02655	0.02885
Saudi Riyal	0.1799	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7240	1.7360
UAE Dirham	0.1829	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3655	0.3665
Cypriot Pound	1.5615	1.5815

\* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5.10.1992 Close	6.10.1992 Close
All-Share	152.14	152.06
Banking Sector	115.73	115.39
Insurance Sector	163.39	164.66
Industry Sector	197.87	197.84
Services Sector	223.93	225.57

\* December 31, 1990 = 100

## France unveils new Africa debt relief package

LIBREVILLE (R) — France announced a major debt relief package for four African countries Tuesday and levelled sharp criticism at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy told 14 heads of state at the Franco-African summit in Gabon that France remained "a militant advocate" for the troubled continent.

"You are not alone. France is at your side," he said, giving details of the French initiative which officials said would help Gabon, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Congo. These middle-income but heavily indebted countries have not benefited from past measures on behalf of the poorest African states.

Mr. Bérégovoy, standing in for convalescent President François Mitterrand, said France would create a debt conversion fund of four billion French francs (\$830 million) by the end of 1992.

"Current debts (to France) will be able to be converted or cancelled to accompany development projects," he said. He did not spell out the precise details of the scheme but one French official said the fund would partly be financed by debt repayments from the four countries which would then be recycled into development projects.

France was also likely to contribute new money, he said. "The main objective is to get them (the Africans) to manage their affairs more rigorously," he said.

Mr. Bérégovoy called on other industrial countries to match France's aid to Africa — which he said stood at 16 billion francs (\$3.3 billion) in 1991 — and said the IMF and World Bank were not doing enough for the continent.

Africa's annual payments to these institutions were greater than the amount it received from them, he said. More than half the 35 countries attending the summit had failed to conclude the 35 countries attending the summit had failed to conclude economic policy programmes with the IMF and were thus starved of new money and banned from the Paris Club where official debts are rescheduled.

"This situation is unacceptable. The IMF and the World Bank must be more attentive to Africa's situation," Mr. Bérégovoy said.

He blamed the poor state of relations on disagreement about the current fixed parity between the French franc and the CFA franc used in 14 African countries. Both the IMF and World Bank want the CFA devalued but Mr. Bérégovoy told them the

dispute "was not a reason for doing nothing."

The Libreville summit has suffered from the absence of Mr. Mitterrand, who turns 76 this month and is recovering from prostate cancer surgery. It is the first time one of these informal gatherings has been held without the French head of state and the presidential turnout is the lowest since 1979.

The host, Gabonese President Omar Bongo, hailed the French debt measure as an "exemplary decision." Once again, he said, France had shown its "profound generosity and understanding of the sense of human history."

Mr. Bérégovoy's address fo-

cused on Africa's economic problems but he stressed French determination to see democratic change continue on the continent. At French prompting, this year's Munich summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial democracies agreed to relieve the debt burden for middle-income African countries hit by falling commodity prices.

But oil-rich Gabon, the wealthiest country in sub-Saharan Africa in per capita terms, was excluded by the G-7. After strong protests by Mr. Bongo, a close ally, France agreed to include Gabon in the bilateral relief which Mr. Bérégovoy announced.



Pierre Bérégovoy

## GATT praises Egypt reform

GENEVA (R) — The GATT world trade body Tuesday praised Egypt's move toward a market economy, but some member nations urged it to seek further reform through lower tariffs.

"Overall, the council was very encouraging about Egypt's trade and economic reforms," a GATT spokesman told a news briefing after two days of closed-door talks.

The ruling council of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) reviewed a report by its staff on Egypt's economic reform and structural adjustment programme, launched in 1990.

The report, part of the agency's continuing "trade policy review" of its 105 members states, said Egypt sought export-led growth through a phased elimination of non-tariff barriers and of restrictions in the export sector, the report said.

But GATT, which seeks to encourage freer international trade, said Cairo faced pressure from vested interests.

Council chairman B.K. Zutshi, in a closing statement, said GATT members had welcomed Egypt's reforms in foreign exchange deregulation, its reductions in non-tariff barriers, improved public finance management and better investment opportunities.

But he said the council had encouraged Cairo to continue its tariff reforms, bring its customs valuation system into line with GATT practice, provide full details of all new regulations and implement all further reforms clearly and consistently.

Rafik Soueilam, Egypt's first under-secretary for foreign exchange and head of its delegation, said that over the next two years Egypt aimed to narrow its general tariff range to between 10 to 80 per cent from the current five to 100 per cent.

But he said in a speech that tariffs on consumer luxuries would remain above this range.

"Delegations from Canada, Korea, New Zealand, the Nordic countries, Switzerland and the United States argued that Egypt's tariffs amounted to very high protection in some areas.

Others expressed concern about Egypt's schedule for lifting conditional import prohibitions, which still covered about 40 per cent of domestic production.

Japan suggested Egypt's limit on work permits for foreigners inhibited investment, while the United States called on Cairo adequately to protect intellectual property rights.

**IMF to extend aid to Uganda**

KAMPALA (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it was prolonging its assistance programme to Uganda. The fund's representative in Uganda said it was extending its expanded structural adjustment programme (ESAP) for a further year, because of Uganda's good economic performance in a difficult period.

Representative Mark Elyan told reporters Uganda's current economic problems stemmed from the continued low world price of coffee, its main export. Uganda earned \$400 million, a year from coffee before the system of export quotas, designed to maintain producer prices, collapsed in 1989. This year's coffee exports would realise only \$96 million. The IMF's current \$240 million ESAP programme for Uganda ends in November.

## Ethiopia needs urgent aid to back reform

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's top banker appealed Wednesday for urgent foreign aid to help the country cope with bold reforms and the legacy of Marxist rule and civil war.

"Timely and adequate financial support from multi-lateral and other donors is very critical if the reform package is to succeed," central bank governor Leikun Berhantu told Reuters.

Mr. Leikun said these reforms would shortly include introduction of higher interest rates.

Borrowing rates would no longer favour farmers' collectives, who paid 4.5 per cent compared to nine per cent for businessmen. Rates will apparently still be set by the central bank.

Ethiopia devalued its birr currency by a drastic 58.6 per cent on Oct. 1 in line with plans to break

with the command economy of ousted communist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The birr, whose value was officially pegged at 2.07 to the dollar for 25 years, is now set at five to the dollar to promote exports such as coffee from the beleaguered agriculture sector.

The devaluation, which heralded a range of other structural economic reforms, should also ease aid from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other donors.

Mr. Leikun said Ethiopian businessmen would be allowed to establish banks and insurance companies in the country. The finance sector would, however, remain closed to foreign investors for the time being.

He said he hoped the reform package would help: "Revive in-

## Gulf war aid makes Japan world's top donor

TOKYO (R) — Japan's cash contributions to Middle East countries during the Gulf war helped push Tokyo's overall official development aid (ODA) last year to \$11.03 billion, the largest in the world, the foreign ministry has said.

It is 1992 ODA white paper, the ministry said Japan's aid to Middle East nations more than doubled in 1991 to \$1.81 billion from \$705 million in 1990.

The total 1991 figure, up 19.6 per cent from \$9.22 billion in 1990, put Japan back on top of the world donor list, ahead of the United States with \$9.64 billion. Japan was also the leading donor in 1989.

A ministry spokesman said the increase in aid to the Middle East was temporary and Japan was still committed to supporting development in Asia, whose share of the total dropped to 51.0 per cent from 59.3 per cent.

"The trend for the aggregate amount to Asian countries is still on the rise," he told reporters. The top five recipients were In-

donesia, India, Egypt, China and the Philippines.

Despite being the largest donor, Japan's ODA was worth only 0.32 per cent of gross national product (GNP), ranking 12th among the 18 member nations of the Development Assistance Committee, which groups the main rich industrialised nations.

In future Japan will emphasise global environmental issues in deciding its aid policies, the ministry official said.

"Japan will support projects to protect the environment as well as industrial projects compatible with environmental conservation," he said. "The goal is sustainable development."

Along with financing, Japan can provide technical assistance with technologies developed through its own fight against pollution, deforestation and in other areas, he added.

Japan announced aid to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June that it would provide 900 billion (\$7.5 billion) to one trillion yen

(\$8.3 billion) in environmental aid in next five years.

The ministry official said that this would be a 50 per cent annual increase over the average of the past three years.

Democratisation in recipient nations and the transition to a market economy were also key factors in aid policy, he added.

"It is important to see that appropriate measures are taken through aid... when developing countries experience serious reversals of democratisation process, grave violations of human rights and other undesirable situations," the white paper said.

Japan will also reconsider aid to countries with excessive increases in military expenditure or arms trade and to those developing or producing weapons of mass destruction, it added.

Japan suspended aid to Haiti and Burma after military coups in October 1991 and 1988. Aid to Kenya and Malawi were also shelved because of their "disappointing political performances," the white paper said.

## Credit Lyonnais profit slides 92%

PARIS (AP) — The French state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais fell victim to its expansive loan policy in the first half of 1992 as hefty provisions for a number of risky corporate loans contributed to a 92 per cent decline in net group profit.

Provisions will remain high in the second half, Chairman Jean-Yves Haberer told reporters, but he declined to give a profit estimate for the full year.

Credit Lyonnais is the first of France's big three retail banks to release first-half results. The other two are the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris and the denationalised Societe Generale.

Mr. Haberer said a near doubling of provisions to 6.25 billion francs (\$1.25 billion) hinged on an economic slowdown that has greatly increased corporate risks, particularly among small businesses and the real estate sector.

"We're experiencing an economic crisis of an unknown nature," Mr. Haberer said. "It's not a classic recession, but it's impact-

ing our clients and all banks very much."

Mr. Haberer noted that bankruptcy filings at Paris' commercial court were up 31 per cent in the first half to 2,683, while the amount of equity implicated in the filings was up 50 per cent.

Mr. Haberer was hesitant to discuss the short-term outlook in real estate, but noted that office oversupply in Paris is currently in the range of 4-5 per cent, compared to about 20 per cent in London.

"Real estate professionals say this can be reabsorbed in the space of about two years," he said.

Credit Lyonnais also was forced to set aside funds to cover its failed foray into Hollywood, via its Dutch unit and Giancarlo Piretti, whose purchase of the film studio MGM ended up a fiasco that lost millions.

Mr. Haberer said the bank also provisioned a certain number of "international risks," the most notable of which was Canadian real estate developers Olympia and York, who owned major

property around the world but declared bankruptcy this year.

The Credit Lyonnais chief noted that, as with last year's results, the high provisions masked underlying strength in the bank's traditional activities. Net banking income rose 16 per cent to 24.37 billion francs (4.87 billion), while gross operating profit was up 33.2 per cent to 6.78 billion francs (\$1.36 billion).

Interest-based income rose 20 per cent to 16.77 billion francs (\$3.35 billion), while net commissions gained 4.6 per cent to 5.94 billion francs (\$1.19 billion). Unspecified "other" operating income rose 18 per cent to 1.67 billion francs.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	1.7290/300	U.S. dollars
One sterling	1.2434/39	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.4275/85	Deutschmarks
	1.6080/120	Dutch guilders
	1.2475/90	Swiss francs
	29.48/52	Belgian francs
	4.380/400	French francs
	1300/1350	Italian lire
	119.75/85	Japanese yen
	5.4300/400	Swedish crowns
	5.8600/700	Norwegian crowns
	5.5500/650	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$349.60/350.00	

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In an advertisement by the Mabarrat Umm Al Hussein about the results of the lottery published in the local press Wednesday, the fifth prize was regrettably omitted. Mabarrat Umm Al Hussein wishes to apologise for the error and hereby announces that the Fifth Prize was for number 4588. The winner is invited to call at Mabarrat Umm Al Hussein for the prize, tel. 892680

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# Bosnia Serbs take key town; hundreds die

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces captured the key northern centre of Slavonki Brod near the Croatian border and staged mopping up operations Wednesday in a town they said was littered with the corpses of hundreds of enemy soldiers.

The Bosnian Serb army, jubilant at seizing a target giving control of a strategic corridor, said its fighters had "broken the resistance of Croatian and Muslim forces and completely liberated Slavonki Brod."

The military police chief for Slavonki Brod, Slavko Bilandzija, told Reuters that Muslims and Croat forces were still holding out at Korac 10 kilometres southwest of Slavonki Brod.

The occasional thunder of artillery as well as sporadic gunfire could be heard, but there was no attack on Slavonki Brod, which lies on Croatian territory directly across the Sava River from Slavonki Brod.

Bilandzija said 250 people, including civilians as well as Muslim and Croat soldiers, had been killed in the last few days in air attack and artillery bombardments to prepare for the Serbs' advance.

Western diplomats called the capture of Slavonki Brod the biggest military prize won by the Bosnian Serbs in the last three months.

One diplomat said prospects were receding in Bosnia as a whole that the uneasy military partnership between Croats and Muslims could mount an effective counter-offensive on key Serb positions before the harsh Balkan winter.

Bosnia's embattled Muslim-Croat government in Sarajevo learned of the fall of Bosanski Brod as heavy combat in the capital itself put in doubt talks scheduled for Wednesday between the warring sides about demilitarising the city.

Fierce fighting broke out in Sarajevo in the morning with heavy artillery and mortars bombing the old town, Dobrinja and Hrasno districts and the centre of Sarajevo.

Heavy 155mm artillery shells and mortar bombs fell near the Bosnian presidency building for over an hour.

A building caught fire near former Yugoslav army Marshal Tito Barracks, just west of the Holiday Inn Hotel.

The action continued later in the morning, especially in Hrasno which Bosnia Radio said was under heavy artillery and infantry attack for the third straight day with palls of black smoke hanging over the area.

Croat forces had vowed to defend Slavonki Brod, a district of 34,000 people where the first armed clash of the Bosnian war took place last March.

The last battle for Bosanski Brod certainly does not mean the war for an independent and sovereign state of Bosnia — Herzegovina has been lost, Croatian Television said.

The television said 8,000 Bosnian Serb troops had been killed in the assault on the town and that 60 enemy tanks had been destroyed and 21 planes shot down.

The Bosnian Serb army said in a statement that "hundreds of Croat and Muslim soldiers have been killed, their bodies scattered

on lawns and city squares." Hundreds more had been taken prisoner, it added.

The fall of the town brought Serb forces to within a stone's throw of Croatia and consolidated a vital corridor they have punched the length of northern Bosnia from Serbia proper to the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia.

In other fighting, Croatian Radio said 12 defenders of the northern town of Gradacac had been killed since Tuesday in fighting against Serb attackers which continued overnight.

Bosnian Radio also reported that the central town of Magjag came under attack by the Serb Air Force Wednesday, despite the announcement by Bosnian Serb Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha Tuesday that military flights were being halted immediately.

The announcement, aimed at preventing the imposition by the United Nations of a no-fly zone over Bosnia, was conditional on the Muslims and Croats not mounting new ground offensives, Mr. Buha said.

The fighting in Sarajevo cast doubt on tripartite talks between the Muslims, Croats and Serbs which were scheduled to go ahead in Sarajevo Wednesday under the auspices of the international peace conference based in Geneva. The talks were supposed to explore prospects for demilitarising the city.

As tensions mount in Bosnia's civil war, the Security Council has created its first-ever War Crimes Commission which some critics believe could lead to Nuremberg-style war trials.

The resolution, adopted unani-

mously Tuesday, creates a commission to investigate crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslav republics, mainly Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Falling under this category would be murder, torture and "ethnic cleansing," the forced eviction of civilians from their homes, conducted mainly but not exclusively by Serbs against Muslims in Bosnia.

While ambassadors in their speeches to the Council expressed hopes and promises that the guilty would be prosecuted, no one was clear how this would be done as no tribunal exists with authority to put war criminals on trial.

Asked about setting up such a tribunal, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told reporters it was too early to make judgments.

"We believe it is very important to defend human rights and one of the ways is to have a group of experts see how we can punish those who have violated humanitarian law and human rights," he said.

France's Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, this month's council president, said in response to questions that to set up "international jurisdiction you need a treaty, you need time" adding that the first step was to collect information.

In Washington, Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the United States is concerned about killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and is pressing allies to enforce a ban on military flights there.

"We are very sensitive to the Muslim World's view that the West is permitting killing of Mus-

lims in Bosnia-Herzegovina while acting differently in Iraq," where no-fly zones have been declared, Mr. Eagleburger said Tuesday.

A "no-fly" zone would halt Serbian or Bosnian Serbian air attacks against U.N. humanitarian flights in the war-torn former Yugoslav Republic. Bosnia has no combat planes.

Mr. Eagleburger said the United States wants to show the Muslim World its concern about the slaughter of Bosnian Muslim victims of Serbian-so-called "ethnic cleansing," the policy of forcibly relocating the Muslims from regions claimed by Serbs.

Threats by Bosnian Serbs to fight any attempt to bar their warplanes from the skies over Bosnia-Herzegovina have made the Security Council wary of trying to enforce a "no-fly zone," diplomats said Tuesday.

Council diplomats have been grappling with differing approaches to the concept of the "no-fly zone" since the warring parties in former Yugoslavia agreed to the idea at talks in London at the end of August.

The issue has gained momentum since the weekend, when President George Bush overruled reluctant U.S. military commanders and promised U.S. warplane support for the ban, most likely in the form of surveillance planes.

Last week, U.S. Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was quoted in an interview with the New York Times as opposing the use of U.S. military force in the region.

But so far the United States, Britain and France have not agreed on the text of a resolution to present to other council members.

## U.S., U.N. press Savimbi to accept election results

LUANDA (R) — International efforts intensified Wednesday to convince former Angolan rebel chief Jonas Savimbi to accept the results of last week's elections and avert the threat of a return to war.

Following appeals to Mr. Savimbi by the U.N. Security Council and Washington to abide by peace accords signed last year, U.N. and international observers met UNITA and election officials to probe complaints of fraud.

The Sept. 29-30 vote was judged free and fair by the observers who hoped it would seal the transition to democracy after 16 years of war between UNITA (National Union for the Independence of Angola) and the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

But Savimbi, trailing in provisional results behind the formerly Soviet-backed MPLA, cried fraud and Monday withdrew his forces from the new unified army.

His former backer, Washington, and the U.N. Security Council appealed to him Tuesday to respect the vote's outcome.

"The council calls on all the parties to respect the obligations they have assumed within the framework of a peace agreement and in particular the obligation to respect the final results," a statement said.

"Any challenge must be settled through the mechanisms established for that purpose."

Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro Castro Van Dunem "loy" left Luanda Tuesday night for Lisbon, New York and Washington with a message for the Portuguese and U.S. president and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Diplomats said the message, from President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, was aimed at trying to defuse the crisis.

"Everyone's trying to keep dialogue open and avert tragedy," said one U.S. diplomat.

The commission overseeing the peace accords — comprising UNITA and MPLA and U.S., Russian and Portuguese observers — and U.N. officials were studying Mr. Savimbi's charges that ballots had been tampered with and checking they had been counted properly.

The National Electoral Council stopped giving out partial provisional results Tuesday and said it would divulge the final result within two days.

Its last figures, with nearly 90 per cent of the four million ballots counted, showed Mr. Dos Santos with 50.83 per cent versus Mr. Savimbi's 39.39 per cent.

The MPLA was leading UNITA 55.07 per cent to 33.45 per cent in the race for the 223-seat parliament.

Unofficial results from state radio show Mr. Dos Santos and his party guaranteed victory.

The government says it wants to avoid war at all costs and the unified army warned rebel generals it would stop any attempt to seize power by force.

Some diplomats believe Mr. Savimbi, 58, could be hoping to negotiate a power-sharing deal and say moderates within UNITA would not accept a return to war. But others describe him as an unpredictable man for whom power is the ultimate aim.

His radio station has been calling international observers "communists" and diplomats say he has locked himself in his Luanda residence and refused to take calls from U.S. officials.

## Buthelezi wants reshaped negotiations on reform

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black tribal and white rightist leaders, warning South Africa could become a new Yugoslavia, demanded the country's main reform negotiations forum be reshaped to lessen Nelson Mandela's influence.

A summit of homeland leaders and pro-apartheid white parties called for a multi-party conference to discuss the composition of a new body to replace the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, African National Congress (ANC) leader Mandela's most powerful black rival, said that if "the worst happened" and talks aimed at creating a post-apartheid constitution collapsed, his Kwazulu homeland would secede from South Africa.

Buthelezi, acting as spokesman at a summit of homeland leaders and segregationist white parties, later told a news conference he was totally committed to negotiations and to one South Africa and the federal formula.

"In a situation of low intensity civil war like we have in South Africa now a Yugoslavia option might happen, might be forced on us by circumstances," he said. "I just pray that negotiations should not fail to the extent that such extreme decisions are foisted on all of us willy-nilly."

Most political analysts consider secession unlikely as a disapproving Pretoria could react by stopping central government funds to any homeland taking that option.

None of the territories is financially viable and central government subsidies form the bulk of homeland budgets.

Mr. Buthelezi, President Lucas Magoope of Bophuthatswana and military leader Oupa Gqozo of Ciskei said they might quit negotiations for good unless reformist white President F.W. de Klerk stopped his "appeasement" of Mr. Mandela.

The summit also reiterated calls for the armed wing of the African National Congress to be

scrapped.

Mr. Buthelezi poured scorn on ANC guerrillas, calling them an "ignorant collectivity of failed human beings who fled to seek violent solutions because the democratic kitchen got too hot."

Mr. Mandela's ANC said in a statement it accepted the right of other political actors to meet and discuss the future of South Africa, but added the summit consisted of leaders fearing extinction in a future non-racial society.

"What has drawn these organisations together is a threat of extinction in a democratic South Africa. It is not the ANC that will make them extinct but their own failure to put coherent and viable policies to the people of South Africa," it added.

The ANC and government agreed a series of measures on Sept. 26 to end violence, much of it between ANC loyalists and Mr. Buthelezi's supporters. The death toll since Mr. De Klerk began his apartheid reforms in February 1990 is over 7,000.

The record of understanding provided for the release of pro-ANC political prisoners, fencing of migrant worker hostels, seen as flashpoints of violence, and tighter controls on carrying dangerous weapons.

The spears and axes, many hostels house loyalists of Mr. Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The parties at Tuesday's summit, including the large white Conservative Party, said they had not created a political alliance but wanted to signal to Mr. De Klerk that they would cooperate to thwart bilateral agreements between the ANC and Pretoria.

At the ruling National Party congress in East London, Mr. De Klerk lashed out at the ANC and hinted at action to halt any ANC pro-democracy march.

"They must stop their nonsense and their underground activities. The ANC must get its house in order," he said.

He said the programme would be repeated, with the solutions for the economy to be detailed. "Together we can fix anything in this country. Let's go to work," he said.

The show closed by focusing on Mr. Perot's book, United We Stand, which details his plan for balancing the federal budget in five years by raising taxes and cutting spending.

Mr. Perot will be the third man in the presidential debates. Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton invited him to join once he re-entered the race.

Mr. Perot withdrew in July, saying Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton were beginning to discuss what he called the nation's major concern — a failing economy — but he returned last week, judging that the economy was still not being discussed to his liking.

## COLUMN

### Toddler gives Mrs. Bush an eyeful

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — Barbara Bush was giving hugs to a group of toddlers who had just sung a song for her when one little boy asked the first lady, "want to see my jammies?" When Mrs. Bush said she did, the 3-year-old proudly pulled down his sweatpants to reveal Mickey Mouse undershorts. Mrs. Bush at first stared wide-eyed as the boy stood there with his pants down around his ankles. Then "he just cracked up laughing. We all did," said Elizabeth Galster, children's programme director for the Care Castle, a day-care programme staffed by elderly volunteers. A dozen of the youngsters came to the Colorado Springs Senior Citizens centre to sing and present carnations to the first lady. After a couple of minutes, the blond-haired boy covered up his Mickey Mouse shorts. "He just felt very comfortable around her," said Ms. Galster. "It was quite funny."

### Low IQ kids are not accident-prone — school board

TOKYO (R) — An education authority in Japan said it has dropped a requirement that schools report the intelligence levels of children hurt in traffic accidents. "Children's intellectual levels apparently have no relation to their getting run over," said an official at Aichi Prefecture's education board. He said notes from teachers had taken the place of information in traffic accident reports about the victim's IQ and school grades. Elementary, middle and high schools in Aichi, central Japan, have filed about 300 accident reports a year since the system began in 1971.

### Ailo ailo, what's all this ear?

WELLINGTON (R) New Zealand police discovered a key piece of evidence when a man fled the scene of a car crash — his ear. Police said Wednesday the 16-year-old driver had stolen the car that was involved in a crash in the northern New Zealand town of Whangarei. He fled the scene but police found his severed ear in the car. The teenager was taken to hospital about three hours after the crash suffering from blood loss. Police said it was not known if he would face charges or whether his ear could be sewn back on.

### Actor threatens to sue magazine

NEW YORK (R) — Lawyers for Woody Allen threatened to sue Vanity Fair magazine for libel after it printed a story alleging that he sexually abused the seven-year-old daughter he adopted with actress Mia Farrow. They said in a statement that the article was "false and defamatory." "We are outraged that Mia Farrow in her singular goal of attempting to damage Woody Allen has again trashed in the media innocent children by further invading their privacy," the statement said. Vanity Fair said it was standing by the story.

### Brokerage's peeping Tom forced to take stock

TOKYO (R) — A peeping Tom at a top Japanese securities house has found his name and alleged offence splashed over the company's internal computer system. The woman victim, an employee at Yamaichi Securities, reportedly all in a message automatically transmitted to more than 100 branches in amongst the less juicy stock transactions, a company spokesman said. Addressed to Yamaichi staff nationwide, the message said a bunch of male employees spied on some of their women colleagues taking a bath during an outing to the local hot peninsula at the weekend.

### Bottom falls out of topless bar trade

ADELAIDE (R) — Topless bar maids in Adelaide have taken to wearing clown suits in protest against new "cover-up" regulations in South Australia which their employers say are ruining business. The week-old edict by South Australia's Industrial Commission banning topless waitresses has seen the bottom fall out of the city's topless trade. Some bars say business has dropped by half. The ban was introduced after the miscellaneous workers' union complained that topless waitresses were demeaning. Barmaids at one bar dressed as clowns to underline what they say is the absurdity of the ban.

## CIS leaders try to revitalise grouping

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (R) — Leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) meet in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek Friday in the latest bid to convert the moribund grouping into a viable political and economic body.

The prospect of binding agreements on the direction and pace of post-Communist reform is fading, with the 11-member CIS increasingly riven by political, military and economic disputes.

The Bishkek conference could well prove a repeat of the previous five CIS summits — long on talk but short on results.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said Tuesday the meeting had to concentrate on closer cooperation to stabilise the shaky economies of member states, virtually all in steep decline.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Akayev as saying the Commonwealth's authority was being undermined because its decisions were often faulty and the vagueness of its structures meant the decisions themselves were not being carried out.

A Commonwealth Television commentator said the leaders had not yet decided whether the grouping was the mechanism for a civilised divorce or for strengthening cooperation.

The leaders are also due to again discuss control over the strategic nuclear forces of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Akayev said the key agenda items included coordination of economic legislation as well as creating a common monetary system.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who complains the CIS has yet to get off the ground, is mainly responsible for the push towards closer economic cooperation.

"The process of closer integration is happening across the whole world — why should we stand on one side?" he told reporters three weeks ago.

But this will spark protests from Ukraine, which envisages the Commonwealth as a much looser structure and has strongly resisted anything which it says smacks of moves to recreate the Soviet Union.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, whose disputes with Russia over military and economic issues have rocked the Commonwealth since it was formed, warned earlier this month that changing the status of the body could cause problems.

"I will strongly push for what we agreed (when the Commonwealth was created) and will not agree to anything else," Mr. Kravchuk told the Ukrainian parliament last week in a clear reference to Mr. Nazarbayev's proposals.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin acknowledges the Commonwealth could not survive without Ukraine.

Mr. Yeltsin and officials in other republics, aware of growing divisions in the grouping, have suggested creating a two-tier Commonwealth.



## Georgia appeals to NATO; minister makes crisis visit

BRUSSELS (R) — Georgia's embattled ruling State Council has dispatched its foreign minister to NATO after asking for an alliance to use "all possible means" to prevent the break-up of the republic, alliance sources said Wednesday.

A NATO spokesman said Georgian Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvadze would visit the headquarters in Brussels Thursday to discuss the conflict with Abkhaz separatists.

Alliance sources said NATO and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) had received a letter from the State Council, headed by former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"It asks that all possible means for the protection of the territorial integrity of Georgia and a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict be taken," said one source.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members were "seriously concerned" by the fighting, which has threatened to develop into a conflict with Russia, the sources said.

But the 16-nation alliance has refused to offer security guarantees or direct military assistance to any of its cold war foes in Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union.

Georgian reinforcements Wednesday reached the Black Sea city of Sukhumi, where residents were dug in against an expected attack by Abkhaz separatists.

A spokesman for Georgia's ruling State Council said men and military equipment were pouring into the Abkhaz region in a bid to defeat its secessionist forces, backed by North Caucasian tribes from neighbour Russia.

The Georgian commandant of the coastal town of Gagra, his forces put to the run by well-armed separatist forces, vowed his men would retake the former resort from the rebels.

The latest military preparations followed decisive victories by Abkhazian forces and their allies, taking the whole of north-western Abkhazia under their control.

Sukhumi, the Abkhazian capital 350 kilometres northwest of Tbilisi, remains in Georgian hands.

Georgian authorities also reported three big Russian IL-76 transport planes landed at an ex-Soviet base in the west of the republic to carry away military hardware. Tbilisi has said it will 'nationalise' Russian forces left on its territory.

Provisional Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, in a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, demanded Moscow cut off the movement of men and material across their common border.

"The flow into Georgian territory of guerrillas and mercenaries from the territory of the Russian Federation is continuing... (and) contributing to an escalation of the conflict," Radio Russia quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as saying.

## Bush, Clinton and Perot mount separate TV pitches

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush and Democrat candidate Bill Clinton pressed their election bids in separate television appearances Tuesday, Mr. Bush touting welfare reform and Mr. Clinton defending his actions in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton spoke on free daytime interview shows — in advance of their first debate set for next Sunday in St. Louis — while independent Ross Perot paid for 30 minutes of prime time to detail what he thinks is wrong with the American economy.

The Texas billionaire paid \$380,000 for the time. The debate Sunday, the first of three, is considered vital as the campaigns wind down.

With four weeks to go before election day, a series of new polls showed Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush by eight to 17 points and Mr. Perot, who formally joined

the race just last week, far back. Mr. Bush, on ABC's Good Morning America, touted his welfare reform plan which he said was designed to break "the cycle of dependency" on government payments.

The president also went on local Philadelphia stations in what the White House said was an effort to bypass the media and take his campaign directly to the people.

On Wednesday, he will go to San Antonio to mark the symbolic signing of the free trade agreement with his aides negotiated with Canada and Mexico, a plan he says will spur the economy. Critics say it will spur firms to relocate to Mexico where wages are low.

With Mr. Bush at the ceremony will be Mexican President Carlos Salinas De Gortari and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Clinton, on the Phil Donahue talk show, repeatedly de-

fended his conduct during the Vietnam War and described as "ridiculous" a rumour that he considered renouncing his citizenship to avoid the draft.

The Arkansas governor, who has been dogged about not serving during the war, added that he was proud of his opposition to the war and had attended a couple of protests in London while a student at Oxford.

But he insisted he was "not a big organiser of anti-war activities" and declared that a 1969 visit to Moscow that has taken on sinister overtones in some published reports, was strictly a sight-seeing visit.

Mr. Perot, in the first of several paid television appearances that he calls electronic town meetings, detailed the ills of the economy under the past 12 years of a Republican White House.

"This has not been pleasant for you, I know," Mr. Perot said in his presentation, accompanied by

charts showing the debt, the slowing economy and the number of impoverished children.

He said the programme would be repeated, with the solutions for the economy to be detailed. "Together we can fix anything in this country. Let's go to work," he said.

The show closed by focusing on Mr. Perot's book, United We Stand, which details his plan for balancing the federal budget in five years by raising taxes and cutting spending.

Mr. Perot will be the third man in the presidential debates. Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton invited him to join once he re-entered the race.

Mr. Perot withdrew in July, saying Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton were beginning to discuss what he called the nation's major concern — a failing economy — but he returned last week, judging that the economy was still not being discussed to his liking.

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